Ping admits spying but not wiretapping

Story on Page A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2001 ★ 70 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 106 ₱15

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- **Furor over sexy films flares up anew**
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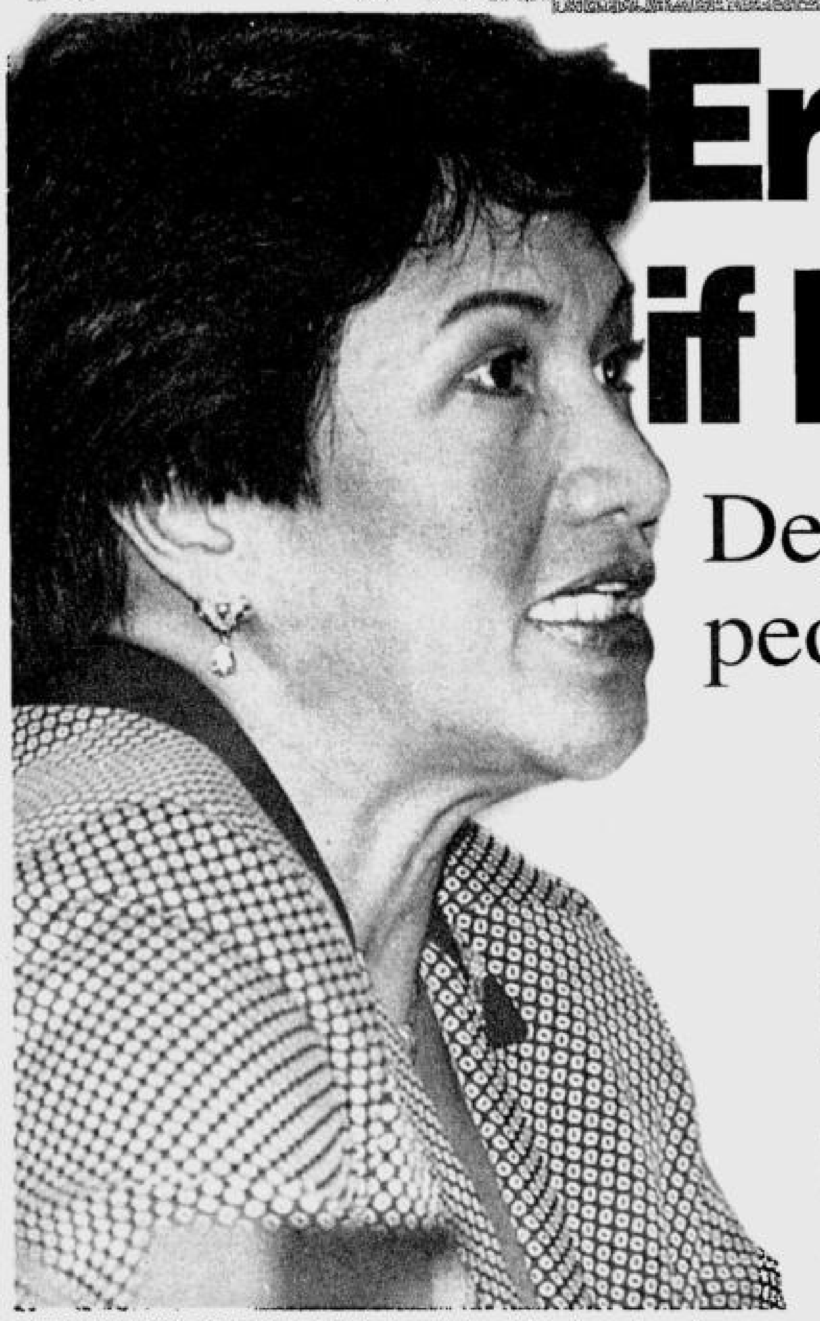
ANN-MARGRET


LIWAYWAY VINZONS-CHATO: We heard about the Irene Araneta money but didn't know where to find it. EDWIN BACASMAS

Erap warns of revolt if he's denied justice

Deposed President says people will have final say

By Dona Pazzibugan, Michael Lim Ubac and Jowel F. Canuday
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Ousted President Joseph Estrada warned of a mass uprising should the Office of the Ombudsman proceed with his criminal prosecution.

"I will exhaust all legal remedies and follow the Constitution and the law. But if I am not given justice, I leave the matter up to God and the people," he told reporters after leading a rally of the opposition senatorial ticket in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, Thursday night.

"The people will have the final say," he said.

Estrada issued the warning after he filed a counter-affidavit to charges that he received P189.7 million in commission for pressuring the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System into buying 447,650,000 shares of Belle Corp. in 1999 for P1.8 billion.

He said former SSS president Carlos Arellano, former GSIS president Federico Pascual, Belle Corp. vice chair Willy Ocier and businessman Mark Jimenez were lying when they testified that he received the commission.

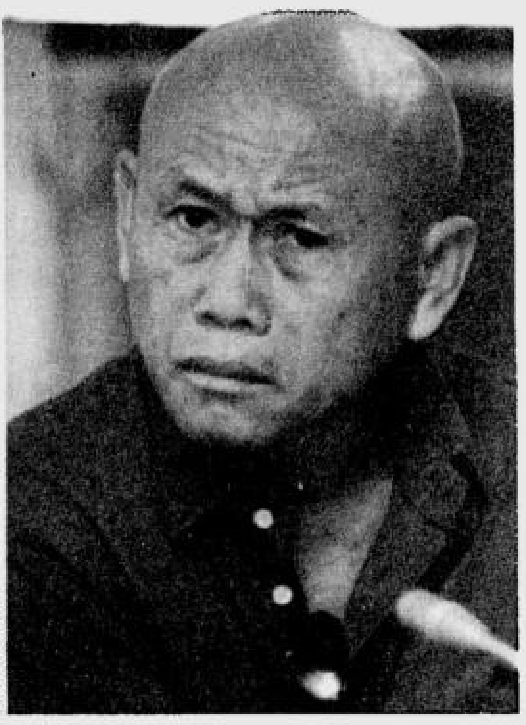
The disgraced leader said he would submit counter-affidavits on the other plunder and corruption cases filed against him by the Department of Justice with the Office of the Ombudsman.

In Davao City, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said Estrada again showed his "propensity to lie" when he tagged as liars his former friends.

Alvin Luque, secretary general of the Bayan-Davao City, said Estrada's reaction was typical of a "thief" betrayed by his "fellow thieves."

"Estrada is the ultimate liar. What is happening is that the company of thieves are squealing and pointing to Estrada as the head thief," Luque said.

ERAP/ A15


JOAN BONDOC

HAVE you seen this man? Please report any sighting of priest-butcher Norberto Manero Jr.

Manero hunted; escape probed

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
and Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THEY'RE all after him: the Philippine National Police, the Army, and even the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza yesterday ordered a nationwide manhunt for convicted priest killer Norberto Manero Jr., who escaped from his prison cell in Sarangani before dawn Thursday.

Mendoza also ordered an investigation of the jail guards who were on duty when Manero reportedly escaped in the trunk of his wife's car.

Manero's escape has not just put provincial jail officials in hot water, but has also opened a can of worms in connection with the way the convicted killer was allegedly given special treatment in prison.

A 20-year-old probationer said Manero was the most favored prisoner inside the jail, and was even allowed to carry firearms and a grenade.

ABS-CBN television said the escapee's fellow prisoners had told them Manero was escorted from the jail by guards.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Manero should have been transferred to a maximum-security prison, adding that the guards on duty when Manero got away could be charged with "infidelity in the custody of a prisoner."

"That is why we will use the full force of government to find and catch Manero," Perez told radio station dzRH.

Perez said he directed National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco to also

MANERO/ A15

Chato says Ramos gov't knew of Irene billions

By Donna S. Cueto
and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

SENATORIAL candidate and former revenue chief Liwayway Vinzons-Chato yesterday admitted that she had heard reports that Irene Marcos-Araneta had stashed away billions of dollars in a bank in Switzerland.

Chato, a candidate with the ruling People Power Coalition, said she was even tapped as the "administrator of the Marcos estate" to help in government attempts to recover the money during her term as Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner under the Ramos administration.

"We heard about some money in the name of Irene Marcos-Araneta then but we did not know where to find it," she said.

If it is true that such money exists, and Araneta cannot explain where it came from, "then it could be forfeited," Chato said in an interview in Bacolod City.

The billions, if they exist, could pay off part of the Philippines' $51-billion foreign debt, she added.

But the government's inquiry into the alleged attempt by Irene and her husband Greggy Araneta to launder Swiss funds through a German bank seems to have hit another speed bump.

German officials said yesterday that a Philippine request to be furnished with investigative evidence related to the alleged money-laundering attempt was subject to deliberation by the German Ministry of Justice.

The public prosecutor's office in Dusseldorf, which is investigating Araneta for "money laundering," said both the Philippine Department of Justice and its German counterpart should coordinate in handling the request.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has already directed Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to aid the Presidential Commission

CHATO/ A15

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Blind girl tops Ateneo graduates

By Lorna Kalaw-Tirol

BEING No. 1 was the least of her dreams when she entered the Ateneo in June 1997. All she had really wanted was to pass her course and to graduate with decent grades.

But this afternoon, Roselle Ambubuyog will cap her remarkable academic life by graduating not just summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree, major in mathematics, but also as valedictorian of the Ateneo de Manila University's Class of 2001.

Ambubuyog is not the first college valedictorian to top her classes in all three academic levels at the Ateneo. Two years ago, Ninoy Aquino's nephew, Paulo Benigno "Bambam" Aquino, was lustily cheered for having accomplished the same feat. The difference between him and Ambubuyog, as those who have been following her story, which was first established in the INQUIRER, know only too well, is what makes the latter's achievement incredible.

Twenty-one-year-old Roselle has been blind for the past 15 years.

She had graduated valedictorian from her elementary school and, four years later, was again valedictorian of her high school batch. It would have been too much to hope that in a more competitive school environment she could still finish college with soaring colors.

In an interview after her selection as batch valedictorian, she said: "I wasn't really planning to excel, but just to pass. All I really intended was to get good grades so as to convince the school that anybody with a disability who deserves to receive an Ateneo education could survive."

Her grades turned out to be more than good.

Except for the first semester of her freshman year, when she was still adjusting to the demands of college life, her name was consistently in the first honors ranking on the Dean's List from first to fourth year. No one was surprised that when the deliberations for batch valedic-

BLIND/ A5

ROSELLE AMBUBUYOG: Summa cum laude and valedictorian of her class

Former BIR chief asks Sandigan to nix conviction

By Rocky Nazareno

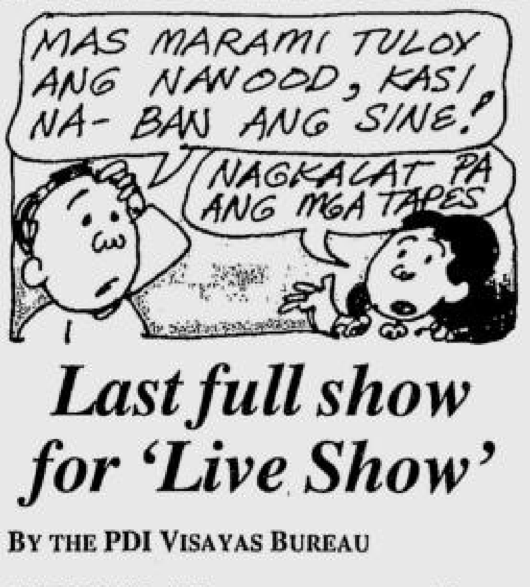
BIENVENIDO Tan Jr., former Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner, has appealed the Sandiganbayan decision sentencing him to a maximum of 15 years in prison for allowing San Miguel Corp. to pay only P10 million instead of its tax deficiency of more than P300 million.

In a motion filed with the anti-graft court's third division, Tan, 78, said he did not err in accepting San Miguel's compromise offer to pay P10 million in specific and ad valorem taxes in 1988.

An avalanche of expressions of multi-sectoral support for Tan has been received by the INQUIRER.

Tan also refuted the Sandiganbayan

FORMER/ A15


MAS MARAMI TULOY ANG NANOOD, KASI NA-BAN ANG SINE!
NAGKALAT PA ANG MGA TAPES

Last full show for 'Live Show'

By the PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"Create controversy and they will come."

This could very well be the case with Cebuanos who flocked to the screenings

LAST/ A5

THE 11TH HOUR DECISION

AFP did not stage a coup d'etat

By Gen. Angelo T. Reyes (Ret.)

(Last of a series)

AT AROUND 11:45 a.m., Jan. 19, Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived at the safe house in Corinthian Gardens with Rep. Nani Braganza, now the agriculture secretary.

In our one-on-one talk, I told her in essence: "Ma'am, we are going to announce our withdrawal of support from the President and give it to you." In response, she said: "General, you are doing a great service to the people and the nation." And I said: "I'm not asking anything for myself. We are only asking for two things, Ma'am: Good governance and a dignified exit for President Estrada."

The incoming President replied in essence: "That's really my program, that's really what I want to pursue—good governance."

After that meeting which lasted until around 12:20 p.m., I decided that the next order of business was to call President Estrada to inform him of my decision. The call lasted an agonizing 45 minutes over my cell phone. As I talked to him, I walked in and out of the house and traced endless circles around the lawn. All this time, Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, deputy chief of staff for operations (JS) fidgeted for fear that our location would be traced with the use of sophisticated electronic surveillance devices.

Meanwhile, my administrative assistant, Maj. Edgardo de Leon, who was earlier given the instruction to bring the members of the Board of Generals (BOG) to the safe house, arrived with the Army commanding general, Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva; Navy flag officer in command, Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong; Air Force commanding general, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor; and the deputy chief of staff (TDCS), Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos.

We proceeded to the dining table where I briefed the major service chiefs and the TDCS on my decision based on a careful assessment of developments. I said it would be ideal for the AFP to announce the withdrawal of support with one voice. After some discussion, the

THE AFP/ A4

Second FRONT PAGE

NAKU... WALANG GANYANAN!

Comelec chief threatens to quit

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

COMMISSION on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo threatened yesterday to resign if the poll body is ordered by the Supreme Court to hold a special registration for first-time voters before the May 14 elections.

At the same time, the 62-year-old Benipayo revealed that he underwent an angioplasty, a minor heart operation, five days after he assumed leadership of the Comelec on Feb. 16.

But, he said, "I'm feeling better now."

"If we are compelled (to hold the special registration) and it is not finished for lack of material time, we would be responsible for it and I would have to step down," Benipayo told a news conference yesterday.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday is set to answer separate petitions filed by youth groups and individuals to overturn a Comelec resolution that denied a special registration day for new voters.

The petitioners also asked the SC to force the Comelec to hold the special registration on the basis of existing election laws.

The Comelec had ruled out any special registration with less than two months to go before the elections.

Benipayo denied he was pressured by the opposition into testifying before the Senate that the Comelec could not possibly hold the special registration without having to postpone the elections.

"If I was under any pressure at all, it was certainly not from any political faction, but from the relentlessness of time," Benipayo said. "I do not succumb to pressure and not even the administration can pressure me."

Answering queries on his health, Benipayo said his heart ailment had nothing to do with his job as Comelec chair.

"My heart was not really good when I assumed office," he said. "But I'm feeling better now."

Ping admits spying but not wiretapping

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Former police chief Panfilo Lacson admitted yesterday that the opposition was "spying" on the administration's People Power Coalition, but claimed that it was not doing this through illegal wiretapping.

"There are other ways to get intelligence (information) not just through technical surveillance," Lacson said, but did not elaborate.

Through these purportedly legal means of spying, the opposition senatorial candidate said he was able to uncover an alleged administration plan to cheat in the May 14 elections.

But even as he admitted spying, Lacson refuted the accusation of PPC campaign coordinator Conrado Limcauco that he was behind the bugging of phone lines in the PPC headquarters.

According to Limcauco, three of 15 telephone lines at the newly established PPC headquarters in Pasig City were found by police to be bugged.

"Whoever did the bugging has a motive for it and have the capability to do it," Limcaoco told reporters late Thursday.

He said the opposition was the "likely suspect" as he noted: "Who would stand to gain from this?"

PPC senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo accused the "consistent allies" of ousted President Joseph Estrada of listening in on the telephone conversations at the PPC office.

"The PNP should investigate and go after these criminals," Arroyo said in a statement. "If it's Erap's group, then (PNP chief Leandro) Mendoza should name names."

Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera believes the same group earlier accused of eavesdropping on the telephone conversations of senator-judges at the height of the impeachment trial of Estrada was behind the bugging of the PPC headquarters.

Herrera was referring to an INQUIRER report where military sources claimed the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, then headed by Lacson, was bugging the phones of the senator-judges.

A Philippine National Police special electronics team led by Raul Bermudez conducted a sweep of the PPC office at the Ortigas Center last March 19.

According to Bermudez's March 20 report to Mendoza, out of the 15 telephone lines, "the spiked numbers are 6360454, 6360774, 6347562, all of which were tested positive for line frequency drops indicating a monitoring activity."

"They are just getting paranoid... because it's true that they are pushing for a 13-0 (administration) victory through padding of the voters' list. It only shows the credibility of the information that we exposed," Lacson said.

"If they have other plans to commit fraud, we will also find out about them," the ex-police chief warned.

PPC goes for sweep with 13-0 movement

THE 13-0 Movement aims to deliver 10 million votes each to the 13 senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition to ensure that they would sweep the May 14 polls.

This was the campaign strategy that the movement, now made up of 73 organizations, unveiled in a forum it held at the La Salle Greenhills Thursday night.

Also unveiled was the official slogan that the movement would carry to help remind voters of the PPC candidates when they go to the polls in May.

"VOT FOR D CHAMMP" is the movement's cry as officials said this stands for either the first or last names of the PPC candidates.

(V for Villar, Manny; O for Obet Pandanganan; T for Tañada; F for Flavier, Juan; O for Osmeña, Serge; R for Recto, Ralph; D for Drilon, Franklin; C for Chato. Liwayway-Vinzons; H for Herrera, Ernesto; A for Arroyo, Joker; M for Magsaysay, Ramon; M for Monsod, Solita and P for Pangilinan, Francis.)

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was guest speaker at the forum, expressed elation over the slogan, saying that she was the one who picked it as she found it easy to remember.

The President also urged the groups, most of which took part in Edsa II that installed her into power last January, to help ensure the victory of the PPC senatorial candidates in May.

"(Vote straight for the PPC bets) so that the reforms that you've been asking—we would be the ones to achieve it," Ms Macapagal told the packed forum.

According to movement coordinator Maribel Descallar, each PPC candidates need 10 million votes each to win the senatorial elections hands down.

Descallar said the movement based the figure from the last senatorial race, where winners there had as much as 8 million votes.

"So you have a buffer of two million," she said.

She told the movement members that they could achieve this by raising public awareness on the candidates, recruiting people to their side as well as helping in the guarding of votes come election day.

A primer prepared by the movement urged the members to recruit and convince 20 of their friends, relatives, officemates and provincemates to "go all out for 13-0."

"Exhorting each one of them to similarly recruit 20 more 13-0 believers and followers to establish a strong and formidable force that will assure victory for the 13-0 Movement this coming election," the primer said.

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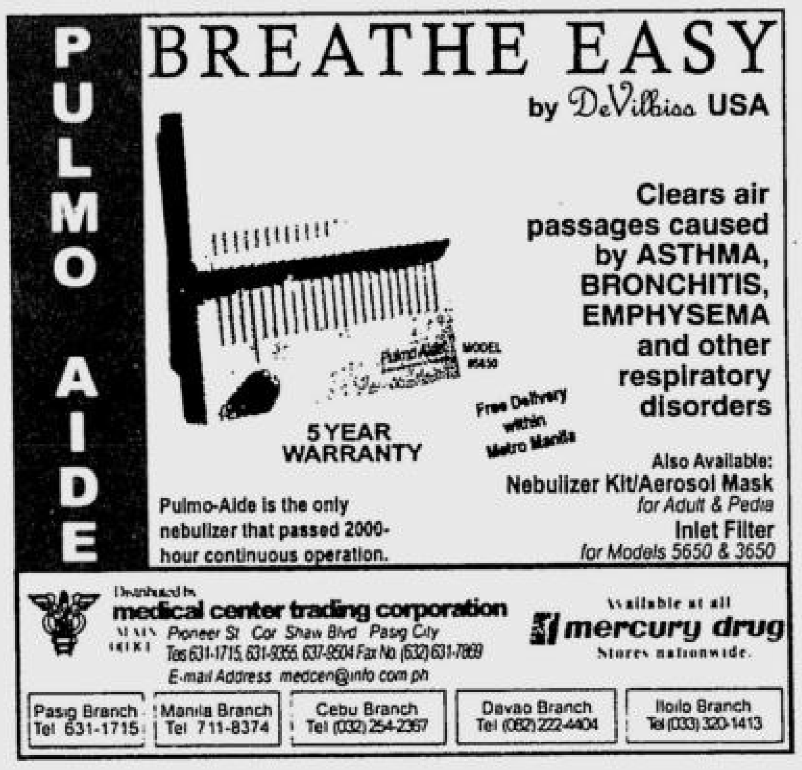
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY MADE that the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI) will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on 28 April 2001, Saturday, at 8:00 a.m. at the Bulwagang Hen. Arturo T. Enrile (AFP Museum and Multi-Purpose Theater), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City to elect the members of the Board of Trustees for the year 2001 and to transact other business.

(Sgd.) Atty. Samuel B. Padilla
Corporate Secretary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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Mr. Rey C. Lapid is the registered owner of the business name and the trademark "R. Lapid's Chicharon and Barbecue" and that he has not offered any food franchise involving the use of the said business name and trademark.

Accordingly, the advertisement involving Negosyong Food Franchise for Lapid's Chicharon c/o Fran.Con Franchise Selling Development is not in any way connected to R. Lapid's Chicharon and Barbecue.

Lastly, the Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Trade and Regulations & Consumer Protection in a Memorandum dated November 11, 1999 has directed all concerned DTI Regional/Provincial Directors all over the Philippines to disallow pending and future applications for registration of Business Names which are confusingly similar to "Lapid's Chicharon and Barbecue.

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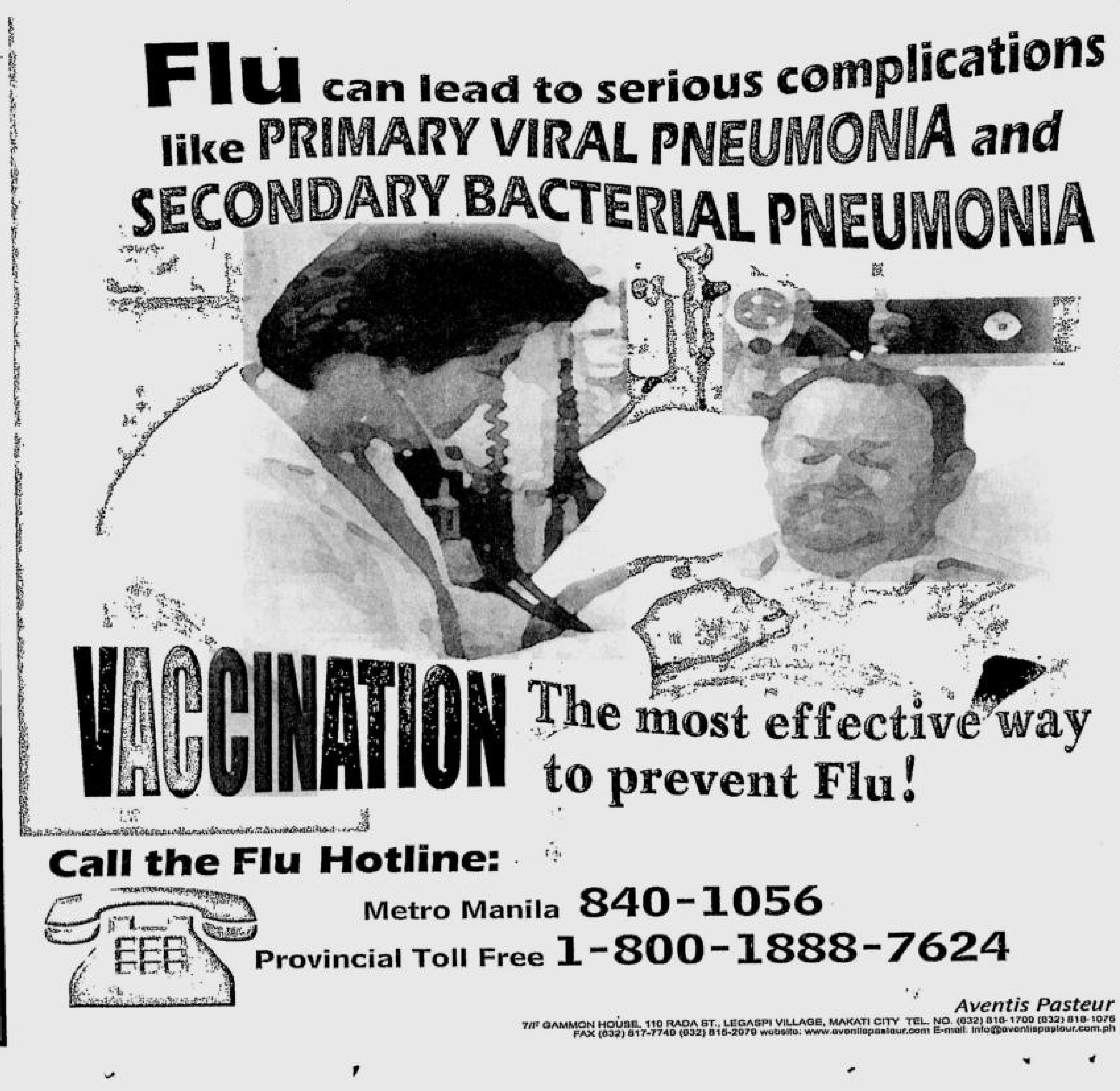
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Palace to review ban on 'Live Show'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to review the ban on the sexually explicit film "Live Show" after controversy erupted over its pullout from movie theaters.

Presidential chief of staff Renato Corona said Friday he and two other members of an appeals committee would watch the film next week to decide its fate.

The banning of the movie earlier this week triggered a public debate on freedom of expression that was highlighted by the resignation of recently appointed censors chief Nicanor Tiongson.

The ban on "Live Show" followed intense pressure from the Catholic Church, which denounced the film as pornographic. The movie depicts the lives of young men and women who perform sex onstage in Manila nightclubs.

Artists' groups have defended the movie, which was shown at the Berlin Film Festival last year. Its director, Jose Javier Reyes, on Thursday had urged Macapagal to see the movie before revoking its license.

He said the movie was not pornographic but depicted the depressing lives of people forced by poverty into the sex trade. *With Norman Bordadora and Gerald G. Lacuarta and a report from AFP*

Ex-gov denies he's a fugitive

FORMER Quezon governor Eduardo Rodriguez has denied reports that the United States is pressing for his extradition on charges of insurance fraud.

The 59-year-old Rodriguez, who is running for governor again under the Lakas-NUCD, branded the reports as "outrageously baseless and a political scheme by his opponents."

Early this month, newspapers reported that three US Embassy officials had called on Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to, among other things, inquire into the status of the extradition case of Rodriguez.

Perez said the US extradition request for Rodriguez and his wife, Imelda, had been submitted to the justice department in February 1999.

"If indeed there had been such a request from US authorities, how come I have not received any information between February 1999 and now?" Rodriguez, who served for three terms from 1988 to 1998, said in a statement.

Rodriguez claimed in his statement that the Clerk of Court of the Regional Trial Court in Lucena City has certified that he did not have any criminal or civil case against him.

"The reports on this extradition request are outrageously baseless and a patent propaganda employed by my political opponents for publicity mileage," he said.

Rodriguez also denied reports that he was a fugitive from US justice as he said he was "already out of the country when the charges (of insurance fraud) were alleged to have been filed" against him.

Rodriguez pointed out that "no less than the Supreme Court had resolved that he was "not a fugitive from justice" in a ruling promulgated on July 24, 1996 which upheld his electoral victory over Bienvenido Marquez Jr. *Rocky Nazareno*

Gloria to Tsinoys: Be more active vs kidnaps

By Donna S. Cueto

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged Chinese-Filipino businessmen to take a more active role in combating kidnapping and other crimes against the local Chinese community.

In a speech before the 23rd biennial convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCI), Ms Macapagal asked the group to form a "liaison panel" of up to five members to work with her office in fighting kidnapping and other law and order problems.

Ms Macapagal told her audience at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel that she has designated her public affairs consultant, Dante Ang, a Chinese-Filipino himself, to be her representative to the "liaison panel."

"He had declined all offers to join the government but, in this case, he is volunteering his services to be my representative in the liaison panel," Ms. Macapagal said of Ang.

She said the gains of People Power II would be "eroded" should the law and order situation in the country deteriorate.

"I therefore declare before this body my vow to prioritize peace and order. I know this may sound like an old refrain but I must repeat it—we will intensify the fight against kidnapping," Ms. Macapagal said.

The businessmen applauded her speech several times.

The other day, she told the Philippine Army during its anniversary celebration that the country's enemies were no longer the rebels but the kidnapping syndicates.

She said that since there was no longer any war in Mindanao and Southern Tagalog with the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front, she has directed the Armed Forces to assist the national police in the "war against crime, especially kidnapping."

The President said she has also directed the Department of Interior and Local Government to assign more policemen to centers of trade like Chinatown and the rest of Binondo.

Chinese-Filipinos have been the perennial targets of kidnap syndicates.

This is because they have the means to pay large ransoms and they prefer to keep quiet about the crime.

Teresita Ang See, of the Citizens Action Against Crime, said incidents of abduction have increased with the approach of the May 14 elections, bolstering suspicions some kidnappers are working for election candidates to raise campaign funds.

President Macapagal said, however, that the latest statistics showed the number of kidnapping incidents decreased in the first three months of this year compared to last year, and the PNP solved most of the kidnapping cases.

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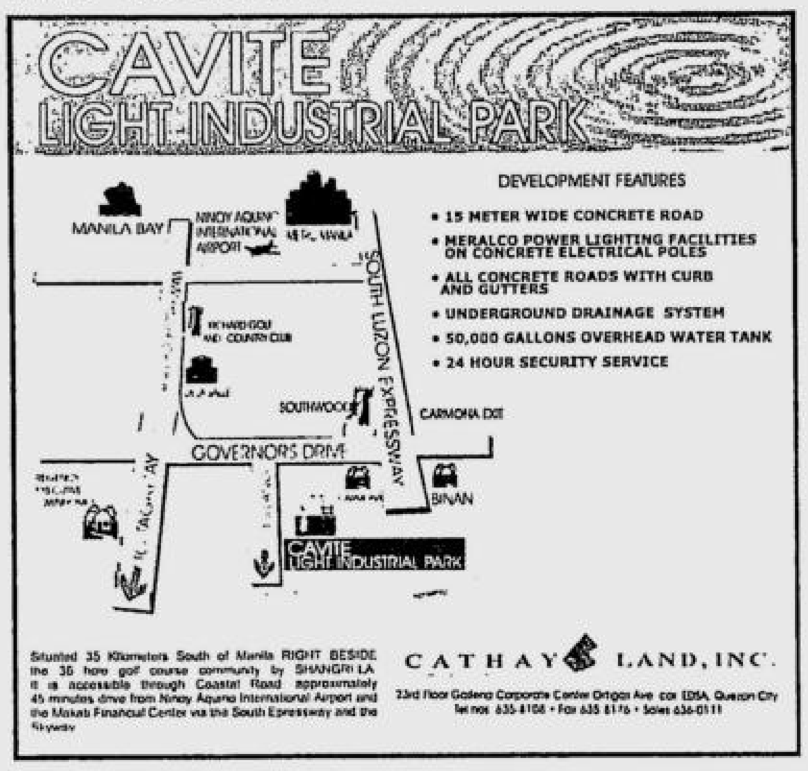
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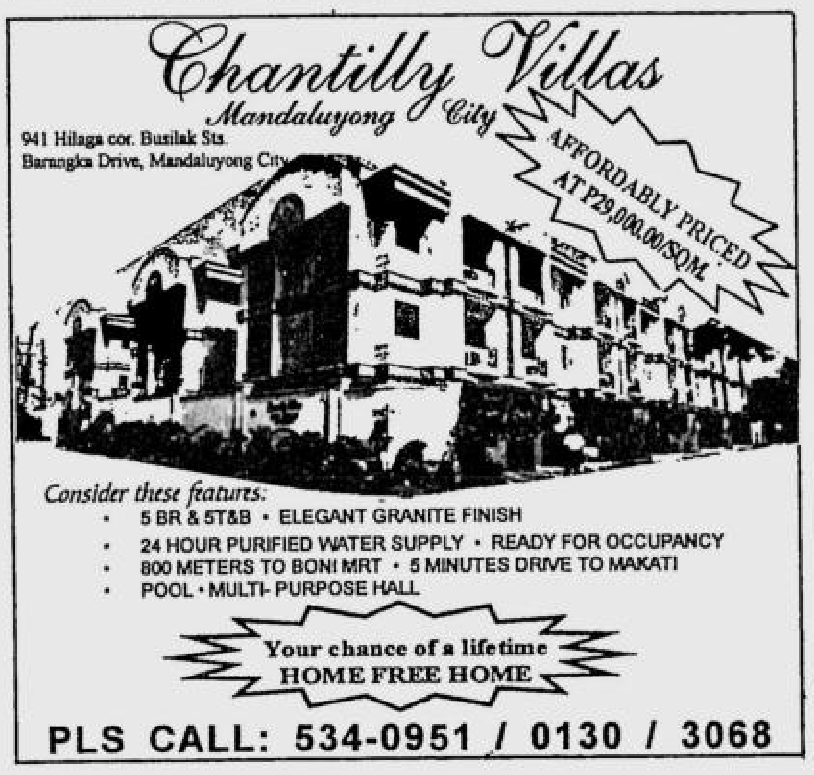
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The AFP did not stage a coup d'etat

(From page A1)

generals decided to support my decision.

By this time rumors of my impending action had spread quickly, reaching my commanders in the field. Almost simultaneously, they called over the cell phone, momentarily interrupting my meeting with the generals, and expressed their support for my decision.

In response to commanders seeking my guidance as regards the order for them to report to Malacañang, I said: "Don't move, stay where you are."

The members of the Battle Staff at the AFP joint operations center relayed my order to all field commanders to keep their forces inside their respective camps and to all intelligence units to monitor any unauthorized troop movements.

After they were advised to await any further instructions from me, I further ordered them to shut off their cellular phones to avoid further calls from Malacañang and to communicate through the AFP radio network instead.

Having arrived at a collective decision, I invited the Vice President to join us at the dining room to see and hear for herself the AFP brass, and likewise for the generals to meet, face-to-face, their next commander in chief.

Mercado calls

At a little past 2 p.m., in the middle of our discussion with the Vice President, Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado called up to remind me of our meeting. I excused myself from the group to talk with Secretary Mercado.

Over the phone, I informed the secretary of my plan. He suggested a personal one-on-one meeting. I invited him to come and assured him that we could meet privately. So, I instructed Major De Leon to fetch him from his office and bring him to the safe house. Then I returned to the dining room to resume our discussion with the Vice President.

After a while, we concluded the meeting, stood up and altogether walked out of the dining room. This prompted the rest of the people in the house to rush out of the safe house toward the vehicles that would bring us to the Edsa Shrine. The Vice President was led to her car and it rolled off immediately.

Just as I was about to board my car, I was reminded that Secretary Mercado was on his way to the safe house. I needed to wait for Secretary Mercado and talk to him. So I asked my aides to signal the Vice President's convoy to a stop. But it was too late. Her convoy had left.

The Vice President returns

After a few minutes of waiting for the arrival of Secretary Mercado, the Vice President, who noticed that we were not tailing her car, returned with former President Fidel Ramos. That was around 2:45 p.m. I told the Vice President that I had to wait for Secretary Mercado who was on his way to the safe house.

At around 3 p.m. Secretary Mercado arrived with Major De Leon. I led him to the music room inside the safe house for the one-on-one talk, while the rest waited in the living room.

In the course of our discussion, we found that we had independently arrived at the same conclusion. However, at one point he raised apprehensions that we might encounter some resistance from the Presidential Security Group and the Marines. I told him not to worry for I had talked already with the Marine commandant, General Ladia, who already committed to get orders only from me.

I also relayed to him the information that the AFP vice chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, was already finding his way out of Malacañang to join us. After comparing notes with the other generals, Secretary Mercado said, indeed, we should all go to Edsa. He then had a brief conversation with the Vice President and former President Ramos.

At around 3:35 p.m., General Calimlim called to report that he was out of Malacañang and to convey his support for our plan. I told him he could proceed to Edsa directly because we were on our way there.

At around 3:50 p.m., I said, "Let's go!" As we all moved to our respective vehicles, I asked Gen. Leo Alvez (ret.) to join me in my staff car. We traveled up to the foot of the Ortigas flyover and arrived at the Edsa Shrine at 4:02 p.m.

What happened next was captured by media cameras and microphones.

What the media might have failed to note was the fact that the country's top military generals arrived at Edsa in civilian vehicles—with no tanks, not even a single firearm, in sight. It was to project the fact that we were not staging a *coup d'etat*. Not by any stretch of the imagination.

Mission accomplished

Having done my job of protecting the interest and will of the people, I returned to Camp Aguinaldo and continued performing my duties.

Representatives of former President Estrada and incoming President Macapagal were locked in negotiations over an orderly transition of government and the evacuation of Malacañang.

The negotiations continued deep into the pre-dawn hours, but resulted in a deadlock.

At high noon of Jan. 20, 2001, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in as the 14th President of the Republic of the Philippines. The constitutional and peaceful transition was complete.

No regrets

Looking back at the events before and after Jan. 19, I have no regrets over any single decision that I had to make—both as a professional soldier and as a human being.

I must have been fortunate that, guided by my mental framework, I was able to make the carefully calibrated sequence of moves designed to stay within the parameters of our Constitution. I did not work myself to the position I eventually found myself in on that fateful day. I did not search for it, nor did I plan for it.

Neither did I have any regrets—nor any desire to downplay—my decision to inform President Estrada of my withdrawal of support from his administration. Neither did I regret my decision to send him off personally at Malacañang the following day.

In the end, it all boils down to the decisions we have to make. All of us, no matter our station in life, are confronted with choices big and small every day.

At times, some of us may come upon a major decision point: To champion or support a noble cause; to make a difference; to decide and act, not because we seek personal gain or glory, but because it is the right thing to do; to rise above ourselves, yet to be true to the character of each of us; and to assert and play out the courage of our convictions, as well as our sense of compassion and humanity.

Those who are afforded that opportunity are truly blessed. And I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been one of them.

REYES (center, beside President Macapagal): The AFP went to Edsa and withdrew as one integral military organization.

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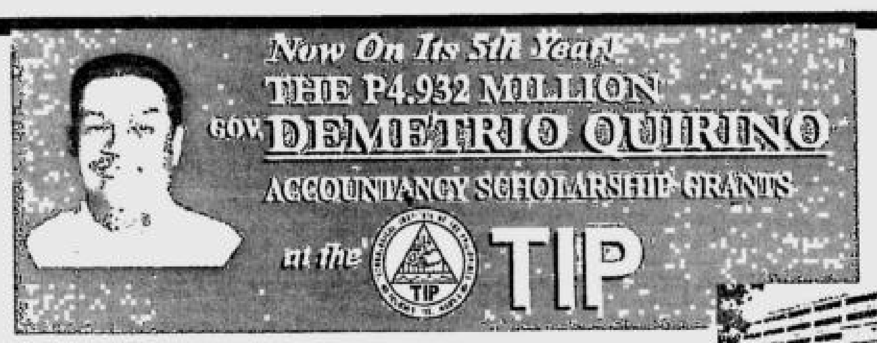

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Blind girl tops Ateneo graduates

(From page A1)

torian started, Ambubuyog was among the leading contenders.

Two weeks ago, the Ateneo's standards committee interviewed the six candidates. Asked why she thought she should be chosen, Ambubuyog replied: "All of us have our own disabilities. Mine is just more obvious. I can represent what it means to go beyond one's limitations, with determination, perseverance, the help of others and the grace of God."

The candidates had been asked to write an essay on what their Ateneo education meant to them. Deviating from the topic, another summa cum laude candidate instead wrote about why she believed Ambubuyog should be valedictorian.

The standard committee's choice of Ambubuyog has been well-received on the Loyola campus. Even the school janitors, Roselle said, had been betting on her since they saw the list of candidates.

Brickbats

She has not, however, been spared the brickbats thrown at her by cynics and critics. But these are hardly new to Ambubuyog.

Back at the Batino Elementary School in Quezon City, when she won one math contest after another, she was sometimes accused of cheating because she was using an abacus.

As a college freshman, she was suspected of having secret tutorial sessions after math class, and of getting A's for her essays only because teachers rated her work using a different system.

Now, envious tongues are wagging that pity is the main reason she became valedictorian.

Her reaction to such talk is simple: "Some students don't really know me. If one thrives only on pity, there's a limit to what one can do."

With Ambubuyog, there is no such thing as limits, or impossible goals.

She does have special equipment such as a note-taker (the notebook computer translates into Braille—a system of writing for the blind—anything she types into it) and a synthesizer. The Ateneo acquired a Braille printer and scanner so her teachers' test papers could be translated for her use.

But Ambubuyog also learned to develop her own system for faster writing and reading, and devised methods for solving long equations and visualizing three-dimensional illustrations.

She has won all the other awards possible for a graduating Ateneo student: the president's award for service and excellence as most outstanding individual; the St. Ignatius Award for Outstanding Scholar, and the departmental award for mathematics.

Outside the university she has received the Jose Rizal Model Student award from the Knights of Rizal Supreme Council and one of the science awards from Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Last year, as one of six Ateneans and other high-achieving students nationwide tapped to participate in the Ayala Young Leaders Congress in Tagaytay, she plunged with gusto into every activity—from the discussions to the sports events. She told Ayala executives during her pre-congress interview, "Given a tool, nobody's handicapped."

With her partner, she won the low-V rappeling competition (which required crossing an above-ground, V-shaped cable wire together at first but separately as they moved upward along the sides of the V). Fellow participants were incredulous, as was Ambubuyog herself.

The three-day Tagaytay congress marked the first time that Ambubuyog had traveled on her own and with people she did not know. Her mother, Deanna, kept worrying about her youngest child and only daughter.

Articulate, insightful

Dr. Leovino Garcia, dean of Ateneo's School of Humanities and Ambubuyog's philosophy teacher in her junior year, described his "A" student as "very articulate and insightful."

She was, he recalled, an intense listener and an active participant in discussions and even in the video project he required of her class in the philosophy of being human.

In the essay she submitted when she applied for acceptance in the Ateneo, she had written that she wanted to be an inspiration to others. That she has certainly been.

To her classmates the click-click-click of her brailling during written tests became a gauge of their own pace—once the clicking stopped, they knew she had completed her answers and they had to work faster.

Her excellent grades, despite her disability, challenged them to aim higher.

Recently, the Resources for the Blind asked her to help convince the parents of a 12-year-old blind girl to allow their child to go to school. The girl is now in school and, as of last report, was doing well.

In her own valedictory speech today, she wants to impart this message: "One needs determination, perseverance and courage to overcome all limitations and weaknesses. Without the help of others, this could be difficult. Strong will power is not enough, for one always needs support from loved ones and friends, and the grace of God, in order to succeed."

Like any college graduate, she looks forward to a bright future; in her case, even if it has to be spent in continued darkness. Although she is hopeful about future eye surgery, she has not given it much thought.

MA, Ph. D

What she is certain about is more study (a computer course and a master's degree in actuarial science, maybe a Ph.D.) and work that will include part-time teaching at the Ateneo and a corporate job.

Why actuarial science? Because, she said, "there aren't any policies being offered to the blind."

Her long-term plan is to "establish myself in the business sector so I can provide equipment more readily for the vision-impaired or for those with other disabilities," or "form foundations or support groups for schools that will accept students with special needs," or maybe even "start a paper manufacturing company."

Do you know, she exclaimed, that a piece of regular bond-size Braille paper costs 75 centavos, and that one mathematical equation takes up all of half a page when written in Braille?

Ambubuyog is aware that teaching will present problems, but she is unfazed. "I'm sure there are ways. A lot of blind people are teaching in the US, even at the college level. I have to develop a method."

"People just give up trying," she said with a sigh. "If we recognize that some of the disappointments we have are actually stepping stones, there's no reason for us to lose. We're bound to win."

Any way one looks at her, Roselle Ambubuyog is a winner. It shouldn't be too hard to see that.

Last full show for 'Live Show'

(From page A1)

Thursday of the controversial film "Live Show," one day after President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the sexually explicit film pulled out from theaters nationwide.

On Thursday, "Live Show" was still showing in five movie houses in this city where it broke amusement tax records.

The city government earned at least P200,000 in amusement taxes after local folk flocked to theaters to see what the fuss over "Live Show" was all about.

The movie opened on Wednesday at Ayala Cinema 6, SM City Cinema 5, Gaisano Cineplex 6, Cinerama and New Cinema theaters.

At New Cinema alone, the city government earned P17,522 in amusement taxes Wednesday, representing 30 percent of ticket sales.

Amusement tax collections for New Cinema increased to P19,460 on Thursday, the day after President Macapagal banned the film following intense lobbying by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and Catholic church groups.

Terollo Bacalso, amusement section chief, said ordinarily the city earns only P7,000 in amusement taxes per theater that shows run-of-the-mill Filipino sex films.

"The amusement taxes increased because of the news that Malacañang ordered the movie pulled out of theaters. The people became curious about it," Bacalso said.

Many Kelly, a ticket seller at New Cinema, said they had full occupancy last Thursday after they opened at 11 a.m.

The last time the theater had full occupancy, he said, was in 1999 when titillating movies like "Sutla" and "Burlesk Queen Ngayon" were shown.

New Cinema Theater is known for showing sex films in Cebu City. It has the highest occupancy rate compared to other movie houses in town.

Ayala Cinema 6 was almost full Thursday night. Many of those who went to the movie house appeared to be professionals from the middle and upper middle classes.

"Live Show" drew the ire of Sin and religious groups over its depiction of poverty-stricken young men and women forced to perform sex acts on stage.

It had been acclaimed in international film festivals before it drew condemnation in its country of origin.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal ordered her chief of staff Renato Corona and two others to review the film before a final decision on its fate is made.

In the meantime, it has been pulled out from screening in theaters nationwide.

The Cebu Alliance for Morality in Media in the Philippines (CAMP) said it had preferred that Henrietta Mendez replace the resigned Nicanor Tiongson as chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

The group said their second choice was Manuel Morato who, like Mendez, is a former MTRCB chair.

Dr. Rene Josef Bullecer, president of the multi-sectoral anti-pornography group, said Mendez was their choice because of her track record when she held the post during the administration of President Fidel Ramos.

Bullecer said Mendez had stood firm in her censure of movies like "Schindler's List," "The Piano," and "Bridges of Madison County" which contained some objectionable portions.

Immediately after ordering the ban on "Live Show," however, and Tiongson announced his resignation, Ms Macapagal named former Education Secretary Alejandro Roces to head the MTRCB. *Nagiel B. Bañacia, Connie E. Fernandez and Roger V. Paller*

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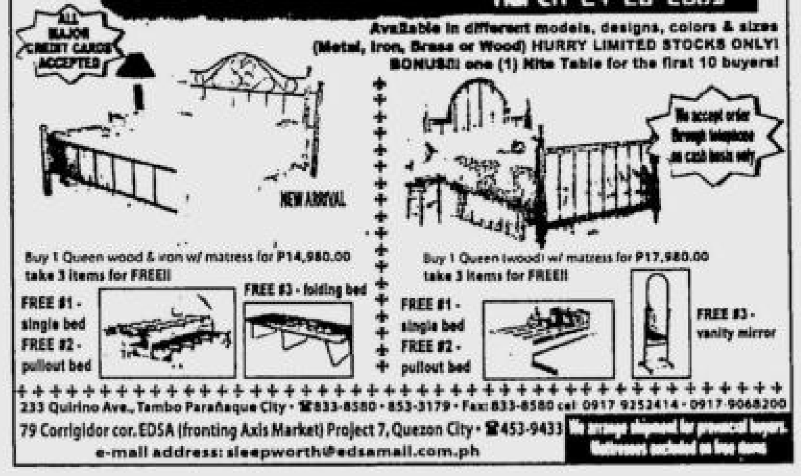
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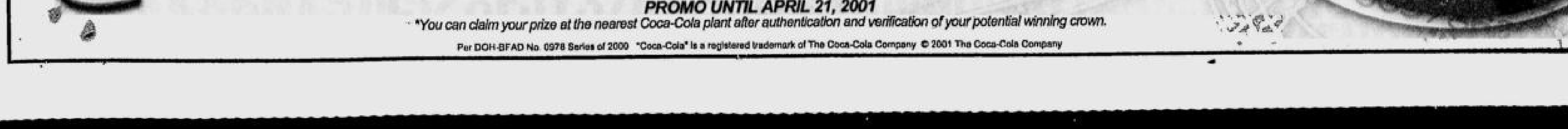
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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 106
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13. Fax: 528-02-34.

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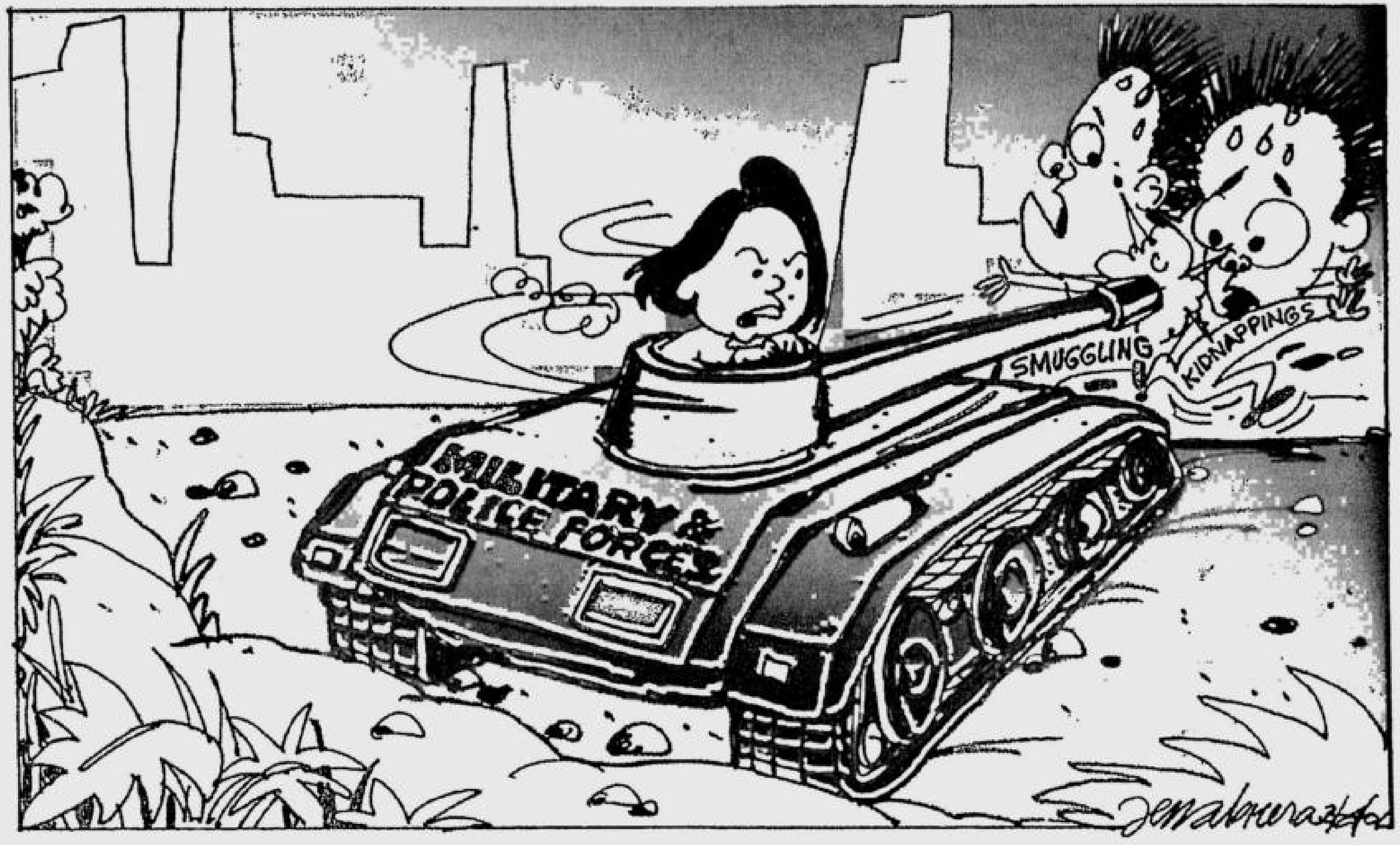


Abolish MTRCB

EDITORIAL

IT IS time the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) was abolished. Through its 72-year history—from its birth in 1929 through its various reincarnations to the board now named MTRCB, it has never distinguished itself in the pursuit of the purpose for which it was created.

In general, the creation of the regulatory body aimed to promote national values and morality and to upgrade and develop the Filipino film, later expanded to include television.

Since it has been around for seven decades, it should have by now become a pillar in the struggle for artistic excellence. Instead, it has become a battleground for the movie industry. Consider the periodic confrontations of filmmakers, the good and the bad, with the MTRCB, the Church and conservative Catholic groups, or what Nicanor Tiongson, who resigned in utter disgust as MTRCB chair, calls "moral terrorists."

This time around, the upheaval over "Live Show" has turned ugly, with the offended artists calling Jaime Cardinal Sin names. The country's literati are on the back of President Macapagal for allowing herself to be cowed by the cardinal and "clerico-fascist" groups into recalling the exhibition of "Live Show."

The filmmakers have scheduled a protest march on Malacañang on Monday. They have reminded the President that censorship may have cost the reelection of her father, Diosdado Macapagal, when he ran against Ferdinand Marcos in 1965. The censors board under the elder Macapagal banned the showing of "Iginuhit ng Tadhana," Marcos' biopic. The ban became a political issue that Macapagal was unable to sufficiently address to the voters' satisfaction.

The censors body has next to nothing to show for its decades of existence. To start with, there's one thing very wrong with it. And it is this: From its birth to the present, it has been a government agency, at first under the secretary of the interior during the Commonwealth. In 1961, Congress enacted a law placing the censors body under the Office of the President. It had quickly become well-known as a dumping ground for the protégés of the cronies of government officials. During martial law, wives of military officers and favored news editors and reporters made up the bulk of the board members. Close at the heels of the proclamation of martial rule in 1972, there was a proliferation of the so-called "bomba" movies, which could be interpreted as a diversion offered the masses to draw their attention away from the harsh realities of life under the Marcos administration.

With the onset of martial law, the bomba film was banned. But in a move largely believed to get on the good side of the film industry, the president's daughter, Imee Marcos, established the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines. Through the ECP, filmmakers could avail themselves of loans to make quality movies totally free of censorship. The ECP was beyond the reach of the censors board.

Initially, the board's main function was censorship: To disapprove or delete objectionable portions from films which the board considered indecent and contrary to law and injurious to the prestige of the country. In the early '80s, an executive order clarified, no doubt for the artists' consumption, that the purpose of censorship was not to restrict freedom of expression but "to provide a standard by which films could be effectively used as instruments of progress." Remember, this was during the martial law era and all media instrumentations were put at the service of the preservation of the state and the perpetuation of the Marcos rule.

The MTRCB has served well the intentions of the powers that be. Other than that, it has been useless.

We propose an industry-wide organization like the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)whose members work in TV, the movies and other audio-visual industries. Who but the industry workers themselves are in the best position to look after their interests? The MPAA serves as the voice and advocate of US films domestically and internationally. It was never meant to censor. Nor did it ever presume to be the guardian of public morals. It only wants to protect and advance the cause of the US movie business. It is not a government entity.

We propose that the Catholic Church, or a group like the Catholic Family Movement in the '60s, organize its own screening and classification board for movies and TV for the guidance of the faithful. We grant the critical role of the Church in fostering and enhancing the moral values of society. We respect its teachings but should not impose them on a people who had of late exuberantly expressed their choices on Edsa, and with a lot of help from the Church.

Judicial precedents

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I UNDERSTAND from the papers that in their motion for reconsideration of the decision in Estrada v. Arroyo, promulgated last March 10, the petitioner is asking for the inhibition of the 12 justices of the Supreme Court who attended Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's oath-taking as the new President of the Philippines. The ground invoked is bias and prejudgment.

Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and Justice Artemio G. Panganiban had earlier recused themselves for their direct participation in her induction. If the motion is granted, the whole tribunal will of course be incapacitated to reconsider its original decision. This should then be done, according to the movant, by justices of the Court of Appeals who will take over as acting (and impartial) justices of the Supreme Court.

I'm not sure I read the report correctly because, truth to tell, I find it hard to believe. The suggestion is, without offense, out of this world. It calls to mind the case of Vargas v. Rilloraza, 80 Phil. 297, where the Supreme Court struck down a similar attempt to disqualify some of its members, also for possible prejudice.

After the reestablishment of the Commonwealth in 1944, the Congress enacted the People's Court Act creating a special tribunal to try collaboration cases. Its decisions were to be appealable to the Supreme Court. There were some misgivings, though, because some of the justices of the high court had themselves served in the Occupation government. On top of this, the remaining justices were in the minority and could not constitute a quorum.

To solve the problem, Section 14 of the statute provided for ad hoc members to temporarily replace the "disqualified" justices in the review of appealed collaboration cases. These substitutes were to be designated by the President of the Philippines from the Court of Appeals or the courts of first instance. For its part, the regular Supreme Court, with its full complement, would continue to hear and decide all other cases within its jurisdiction.

Jorge B. Vargas, who was among the collaboration indictees, questioned the constitutionality of the law. He argued *inter alia* that it would disarrange the judicial structure established by the Commonwealth Constitution. The substitution scheme would effectively but invalidly remove the disqualified justices, who could be ousted only in impeachment proceedings. The substitute justices were not subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments and might not have the required qualifications. Finally, their temporary tenure, which made them removable at will, would undermine their independence and impartiality.

After oral arguments, the Supreme Court sustained the petitioner. In a decision written by Justice Sabino Padilla, the high tribunal agreed that the challenged section was invalid because it would create *two* Supreme Courts—the regular and the ad hoc. This would violate Sec. 1, Art. VIII of the 1935 charter providing that "Judicial power shall be vested in *one* Supreme Court and in such inferior courts as may be established by law."

The Court held that the temporary nature of the second court did not justify its take-over from the regular high tribunal of the power to hear appeals in certain cases, including collaboration cases. That power belonged to the one and only Supreme Court, which could not be lawfully deprived of the appellate jurisdiction conferred upon it by the Constitution itself.

Besides accepting the petitioner's other arguments, the decision observed that of the 10 regular members sitting on the Supreme Court then, only four had not served in the Occupation government. That meant that the "designees," although only temporary and from the lower courts, could make their judgment prevail over that of their permanent colleagues.

Another case that may also be pertinent is Abbas v. Senate Electoral Tribunal, 166 SCRA 651. Here the petitioners were seeking to disqualify the legislative members of the respondent body from sitting on an election contest where they were among the protestees.

(Under the present Constitution, the Electoral Tribunals are composed of three justices from the Supreme Court and six members from the Senate or the House of Representatives, as the case may be, chosen on the basis of the proportional representation of the parties in the chamber.)

In 1987, the election of all the 22 senators from the Laban coalition was protested. One of the oppositionists later joined the majority and his replacement as minority member of the Senate Electoral Tribunal inhibited himself. The other five legislators in the body were all from the majority, as so were the rest of the senators. As any substitution would raise the same objection, the Tribunal denied the protestants' motion to disqualify.

The motion was elevated to the Supreme Court on certiorari and suffered the same fate. The high tribunal held that if the incumbent legislative members were to be disqualified, their replacements could also be challenged, being also protestees in the election contest. Further disqualifications would have the same result, and the effect would be the paralysis of the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

Justice Emilio A. Gancayco, who wrote the decision, observed: "The proposed mass disqualification, if sanctioned and ordered, would leave the Tribunal no alternative but to abandon a duty that no other court or body can perform, but which it cannot lawfully discharge if shorn of the participation of its entire membership of Senators."

Justices of the Court of Appeals reconsidering and possibly reversing a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court? The idea is fantastic; if the report is true, my friend Rene must be dreaming again. Unless the Supreme Court decides to overrule the above precedents, I would say that former Senator Saguisag's motion, for all its imaginativeness, is doomed like his client.

Another contest of personalities

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE ONCE pristine walls of our basketball court now looks like a wallpaper of photographically enhanced faces. "Voltes V" posters of Manny Villar (those showing his face inside the letter V), billboards of Kiko Pangilinan's "close up smile," posters of Noli de Castro with his carefully gelled hair as well as faces and slogans of other candidates for senator are securely plastered on its walls. The election fever is indeed running high and candidates are busy giving out flyers, shaking hands and pasting their posters on every wall, waiting shed or lamppost they can find. They have prepared for almost everything that will get them elected to public office—except for the most important part: preparing their platforms.

Let's face it. In the Philippines, candidates get voted for some office because of popularity or personality rather than platform. The more common election process in the Philippines sees candidates being elected first before they seriously start thinking about their platforms. Although there are some who are sincere in pushing for reforms, they are more the exception than the rule.

Grave consequences have actually resulted from this, but we still don't learn. Our last president holds the title of Most Popular President of the Philippines because of the number of votes he got, but he was ousted only two and a half years after his election because of bad governance. Clearly popularity does not mean good governance.

The Macapagal administration has not come up with a solid platform on which her People Power Coalition can build its campaign. This clearly is no way to develop policies and implement programs to help "heal" the nation. The Puwersa ng Masa, which is playing the role of underdog, is also mum about what reforms it would want for the country. It seems that people would just have to rely on the track records (or the lack of it) of the candidates to decide if they will vote or not vote for them in May. Rather than looking at solid programs which these candidates espouse, people will have to decide based on the accomplishments as well as rumored qualifications of those who are running for office.

> We have to discern wisely before we vote. The fate of our country is in our hands

Will people have to rely on empty promises all over again? Mang Boy, an ice cream vendor puts it aptly, "*Sawa na ako sa mga* gimmick *ng mga iyan. Ang daming mga pangako di naman natutupad.*" So what then are we left with?

The May elections will be more a contest of personalities rather than of platforms. This is quite evident from the kind of candidates that we have and the maturity of our electorate. People will vote for candidates they see on TV or on posters and read about in the newspapers. Even if some candidates have good intentions and programs, if they have meager resources to advertise themselves, they most certainly will not win.

With this disheartening scenario at hand and even knowing that popular personalities win elections in the Philippines, we are exactly left without a choice. We can still vote wisely by choosing the candidates who may not only be popular but also possess the integrity and moral values that we require of a leader.

It is clear that people should not only look for a leader who is "*maka-mahirap.*" Many people say they are for the poor, but we have repeatedly learned that this is not enough. A leader should not only have a heart for the poor but must also pursue with consistency and determination the common good. Leaders must be competent and equipped with the knowledge and skills to perform their jobs effectively.

Politics in an imperfect democracy like the Philippines is a laborious task. It not only requires commitment or willingness to serve but also knowledge about various fields like basic services, housing, health, governance and laws. We have to make sure that our leaders are also defenders and promoters of justice.

It is clear that we should not choose people who have a record of violations of human rights abuses or criminal conduct. If indeed we want to become a good nation, we must be able to respect and uphold the rights of each Filipino. The list of the characteristics of good leaders is endless. But these I think are the most important ones that we should consider in the May elections.

The wallpaper of posters we see on the walls only shows us the faces of the candidates. Posters don't show us their souls or intentions. Let us not be misled by the candidates' smiling faces and impressive slogans. We have to discern wisely before we vote. The fate of our country is in our hands. Let us not make the same mistake of voting for leaders who promise to save us, but instead plunder the treasury and lead our nation to ruin.

Joe de V. shuns 'balimbing system'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER SPEAKER Joe de Venecia hosted a luncheon for a large group of media people at his Dasmariñas Village residence yesterday, an indication, indeed, that he is serious about making a bid for the speakership again. De Venecia and his ever-gracious Gina served some Pangasinan *kakanin* and fresh fruits for dessert, but not *balimbing*. But more than the fruit, De Venecia nowadays is avoiding especially the political *balimbing*.

This statement will certainly raise eyebrows, as it comes from the grand architect of the rainbow coalition in the Ramos era, who had seduced so many politicians from other parties into joining the Lakas-NUCD. In his heyday, politicians trooped by the hundreds to Malacañang to take their oath before President Ramos, with the Speaker standing as witness, smiling broadly like the cat who had swallowed the canary. Now, he is the first to reject turncoatism, and has sold this reform measure to his party.

When the media people teased him about his old practice of political seduction and how, at last, political wisdom has come to the house of De Venecia, he smiled shyly and murmured that "even old dogs do reform."

* * *

The former speaker and Lakas national chair, who is running unopposed for his old House seat in Pangasinan's fourth district, recently unveiled two political and electoral reform measures to eliminate the "*balimbing* system" and bring about a return to the two-party system. Soon after his disastrous defeat in the presidential race of 1998, De Venecia confessed that he began to see how disastrous turncoatism was for local politics. He saw his party mates troop to the administration's door, though not as disastrously as when he was seducing them away from the Nationalist People's Coalition, the LDP and other political groups. In his six-year stint as speaker, De Venecia succeeded in getting the 47-member NPC and 13-member Liberal Party to ally with his 37-member Lakas. Then he split the 88-member LDP, which was leaderless following the defeat of former Speaker Monching Mitra, and got half of its members to switch to Lakas. Thus was born the vaunted rainbow coalition that pushed many reform measures of the Ramos administration.

* * *

But seeing many of his party mates virtually do a repeat in joining the LAMP coalition after his own defeat in 1998, De Venecia now calls turncoatism a "vicious political circus that saps the strength of the political parties in favor of the one in power." Yesterday he said in answer to Star's Jo-Ann Ramirez's query as to how many of his allies he has kept: "I treat my politics as permanent alliances, although the realpolitik is that you lose 50-60 percent."

This reality has produced good results. At De Venecia's prodding, Lakas has come up with a covenant that would bind each of the 17,500 candidates of Lakas in the May elections, from senator down to councilor, to the party. (This does not cover, however, non-Lakas candidates who are running under the People Power Coalition.)

* * *

The conditions of the covenant are stiff. The Lakas candidates swear that they would "reject the politics of turncoatism—the politics of the *balimbing*—that unconscionably puts self-interest above the genuine goals of public office for the common good." Should they get elected, the Lakas members are duty-bound to stay with the party, and if they wish to leave, they have to submit "to the judgment of the party and accept the penalty of expulsion with dishonor and disgrace." Moreover, they have to relinquish their elected or appointive positions. This practice is modeled after that of the ruling party of Singapore.

The first two senior officials to sign the covenant were reelectionist Rep. Apolinario Lozada of Negros Occidental and Legazpi Mayor Imelda Roces. To date, some 16,000 Lakas members have signed it, according to De Venecia

* * *

Shunning turncoatism, as Lakas is now doing, will be good for party politics in this country, as it could lead to more principled politics and develop a sense of responsibility among the parties. The covenant's language is strong: "I reject the politics of patronage, mendicancy and greed that has engendered crass opportunism and a heartless and mindless pursuit of power, privilege and class for its own sake." Good rhetoric, if it could be made a reality.

But the problem of party loyalty may be secondary to winning this May especially at the local level, where Lakas, as the dominant party, is faced with innumerable squabbles among its candidates, e.g., the "official" Lakas and the Lakas "independent." Compounding this problem, as De Venecia told the media people, is funding the candidates. Lakas is short of funds and businessmen are not giving like they used to largely because of the tough economic times. Then, too, party people have complained that while President Macapagal has been campaigning for her candidates, she seems not to be lifting a finger to raise funds. On the other hand, reports say that Danding Cojuangco is funding candidates down to the local level.

Lakas' tight finances are reflected in the senatorial race. Except for two or three senatorial candidates of the PPC, whose core is Lakas, who are well-to-do, the candidates are struggling financially, whereas Puwersa ng Masa is dominated by "billionaires," as De Venecia put it.

* * *

While De Venecia has eschewed turncoatism, it didn't stop him from working his old political black magic in his province. He is running unopposed, giving him more time to help with fund-raising and campaigning for his party's candidates in various areas. This became possible when, with the help of President Macapagal, he was able to convince Rep. Benjie Lim, to run instead for mayor of Dagupan. Then three-term Dagupan Mayor Al Fernandez Sr., president of the City Mayors' League of the Philippines, was convinced to withdraw from the congressional race, and instead his son Al Jr. will run with Lim as his vice mayor. A typical De Venecia win-win concoction, said one media person, adding, "*Ang galing talaga niya sa ganyan*."

* * *

De Venecia was asked who could be his possible opponents for the speakership, and he said that there's Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, Cojuangco's nephew, and the comebacking Ronnie Zamora, Erap's executive secretary, who is running against Rep. Jose Mari Gonzales in San Juan (he of the slapping episode notoriety). De Venecia says he would try to forge another rainbow coalition with other political groups, and central among them is the NPC, which, in his estimate, could end up with about 45 members in the House. Star's Boo Chanco opined that the NPC is likely to forge an alliance with the administration party, especially since the coco levy issue still hangs in the balance.

Mina's 'old-fashioned' run in Pasay

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THOUGH she waited almost until the last minute before filing her certificate of candidacy, former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor is pursuing a seat in Congress as Pasay's lone district representative the old-fashioned way.

"I learned it from my father," says Mina. The late Angel Cuaderno Tapia was a local pol, and in his heyday, votes were pursued by going door-to-door, personally asking for the votes of individuals.

This is what the tireless Mina is doing. "I've covered about 60 percent of all the barangays," she states matter-of-factly. "And if I maintain my pace, I'll have enough time not just to cover all the barangays, but to do a second sweep as well before election day."

With the slogan "Bagong Buhay! Bagong Pasay!" Mina has embarked on a seemingly quixotic quest. She is running against not just two experienced politicians—former Rep. Freddie Webb and Councilor Connie Dy—but well-oiled (and funded) machineries. Mina claims the anti-Erap forces had initially sought her out when no local politician wanted to challenge the (then) ruling party. But after People Power shifted the equation, the new ruling party Lakas decided to back Dy, who topped the elections for councilor and funds her political run with the profits from a family owned cockpit and several nightclubs.

But Mina had an inkling she had a chance of winning against Dy when local Lakas leaders implored her not to pursue her plans. "I'm not the type who backs out of challenges," says Mina.

* * *

MINA has lived in Pasay for more than 40 years. Thus she counts on a vast network of former neighbors, former classmates and teachers at the Jose Rizal Elementary School, childhood friends and colleagues, as well as civic organizations to put her campaign in high gear.

Apparently, the people of Pasay have just been waiting for a candidate out of the mold to lend their support to. The night we had dinner at the Garden Café, her restaurant cum handicraft showroom along Roxas Boulevard, she was entertaining a delegation from among the city's Sangguniang Kabataan who were signing up as volunteers.

"Lack of political will" is Mina's brief explanation for Pasay's unsavory reputation for sleaze, garbage, congestion and motels. "But if you look at the statistics, you'll see that there are even more motels in other parts of Metro Manila!" she protests. Her solution for Pasay's malaise? "Job generation and employment. We should start training young people for different trades. We shouldn't meekly accept the title of 'Sin City,' we should work to transform it into a 'Cultural Capital' instead. If we only provided good training in dance and music to the women working in the clubs, we might even be able to stage Broadway-type shows instead of cheap performances."

Her background in tourism and marketing has also provided her with fresh insights on how to improve Pasay's desolate urban environment. She also plans to collaborate closely with the new city government in mapping out a comprehensive development plan for Pasay, the lack of which shows in the city's helter-skelter layout and traffic.

After having served in government for 18 years in various capacities, Mina says it would be an honor to serve her home city. And she should be in a better position to understand its problems, after immersing herself "door-to-door" in its realities.

* * *

I JOINED a group of media folk for lunch at the Dasmariñas Village home of former Speaker Joe and Gina de Venecia yesterday. "Rainbow Joe," who lost a presidential run three years ago, is up and running for political resurrection. He is running once more for his old congressional seat in Pangasinan, and even now is already pursuing plans to retake the speakership.

Ever the optimist, Joe hopes to recreate the "Rainbow Coalition" he formed in the House that gave former President Fidel V. Ramos' legislative initiatives relatively smooth sailing. "What are you cooking up these days?" Joe was asked. "A Rainbow Torte!" I teased him.

The luncheon fare was not all politics, since we were treated to a buffet of home-cooked specialties as well as an unusual (but yummy!) *pancit* dish that featured fresh oysters from Pangasinan. "I cooked this myself," Joe assured us, while Gina spooned out the justifiably famous Vera Perez staples of *laing* and chicken *adobo*.

In addition to the desserts, Joe proudly brought out a bowl of *camachile*, observing that we urban denizens probably hadn't had a taste of them in ages. But he only smiled when we wondered if he was serving *balimbing* as well. "Precisely, he's trying to get rid of them," chided Deedee Siytangco.

Joe proudly showed off a "contract" with the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP and a "Covenant with the Filipino People" that he helped draft and that each Lakas candidate is asked to sign. In it, the candidate promises to "reject the politics of turncoatism—the politics of *balimbing*—that unconscionably puts self-interest above the genuine goals of public office for the common good."

If anyone doubts Joe's ability to repeat the Rainbow Coalition, consider what he's done in Dagupan. Rep. Benjie Lim, who was thought to pose a daunting challenge to Joe, has been persuaded to run for mayor instead, while third-termer Dagupan Mayor Al Fernandez is fielding his son as Lim's vice mayor.

"What, you're running unopposed?" we exclaimed. "*May kalaban naman, isang* independent," Joe replied smoothly. The "Rainbow Express" is off and running.

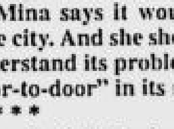
* * *

MEA CULPA. My apologies to Bing Solamo, chair of the Abanse! Pinay chapter in Davao City. In an earlier column, I identified Iris Melliza as the chair. Melliza is a member of the chapter council, while Solamo is the duly elected chair.

The residents of R. Hidalgo

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



A 1932 ARTICLE titled, "Calle R. Hidalgo: A Study of a Street," reveals the fact that 60 years earlier, in 1872, business was booming and many of the houses of *materiales fuertes* in Binondo and presumably Sta. Cruz were converted to retail shops because of the high rents that they commanded. Other things happened in 1872 that had a direct bearing on the events of 1896 and possibly interrupted business activities for a while, but nonetheless the trend for Binondo was set. It had its day and was on the decline even if no one knew it then. People who had the money were constructing houses in the *arrabales* of Quiapo, San Miguel and Sta. Ana. In the meantime "sugar, hemp and tobacco boomed, with the Suez route to Europe and New York open and the port of San Francisco linked eastward by rail, a growing affluence, from rents and the polite professions, law and medicine, which Filipinos entered at last." All this encouraged a real estate boom.

The main street, however, was not called Calle R. Hidalgo then but Calzada de San Sebastian. Neither had the Puente Colgante been constructed and one had to go through Calle Carriedo from Sta. Cruz.

The typical house of *cal y canto* had two stories and was "a quiet spacious home beautified by the aged hardwoods of its walls, floors and grand stairway leading from the ground floor, which is built of stone." The rooms were large and airy, the ceilings very high, and the names that resonated, according to the account, were those of Zamora, Genato, Araneta, Ocampo, Prieto, Kalaw, Paterno, Legarda, Nakpil and Tuason. There was an altar in almost all the homes "for the community is both religious and conservative." Whatever windows the ground floor would have were grilled, and once the double doors were barred and shut, the house was secure. These ground floors contained servant's quarters, storerooms and family carriages and *quiliz*—"the latter in vogue for going to church" which was a stone's throw away, whether you chose to worship at San Sebastian, which was still of stone and not of pre-fabricated steel, or at Quiapo.

But by the 1930s the movement to the suburbs of Malate, Sta. Mesa and San Juan was on. Many of the families though kept their old houses out of sentiment perhaps; the impetus to sell would not come until after the war.

Seventy years later, some of these 19th-century ancestral homes still exist on R. Hidalgo but they are slowly being sold for commercial purposes with the new owners (including the church with little or no feel for the historicity of the street) erecting concrete boxes in their stead. Present-day observant visitors can still catch a glimpse of these few remaining old houses with lower floors of thick masonry and facades abutting the sidewalks closely. If a massive double door is left partially open, the driveway extending from the street to the rear can be seen.

During the American period, the municipal board voted to change the name San Sebastian to R. Hidalgo on Dec. 19, 1913 to honor one of Quiapo's own, Felix Eduardo Resurreccion Hidalgo y Padilla, the painter who won fame in Europe together with Juan Luna.

As time passed, windows were cut into the front wall of the lower story and show windows made for store purposes. There were marble works; woodcarving and molding of statues. All the shoe shops were Filipino, both those doing repair or accepting orders for custom-made shoes. So were the tailors and the dress shops although "everything in them is made to measure from the best imported fabrics, nothing from native fabrics."

There were drug stores, especially if a brother or a son was a doctor and had his clinic on the second floor and the sister had a degree in pharmacy. Filipinos, we are told, pretty much controlled the drug stores throughout the islands. "[The business] seems to have fallen into their hands partly by inheritance and partly because Sto. Tomas University has long given pharmacy courses."

The writer commented that the Chinese were beginning to be interested in drug stores, too, but none had a store on R. Hidalgo. "Can the Filipinos hold it, if the Chinese presses him as hard in it as he does in every other business he goes into?"

The Chinese presence was evident in the *panciterias* and the lunch counters found at the head of the street and in its corners, the *sari-sari* stores that sold "the little necessities that go into the homes: a penny's worth of cigarettes, two pennies' worth of lard, a penny's worth of cookie with a glass of water, a spool of thread, a couple of needles, a tin of milk or sardines, up to a meal's victuals—this last abundant for the price and quantity to suit a wide field of trade."

If you didn't have two centavos for a whole box of matches, the Chinese storekeeper was willing to sell you half a box for one centavo. Or if it was past everybody's bedtime and the stores were closed, you could still bang on the door, wake up the poor owner and the Chinese would still sell you what you demanded.

Other stores included Japanese refreshment parlors that sold *halo-halo* and *mongo con hielo*, *sorbetes* and sweetmeats. (It took a whole war and the devastation of a city for Filipinos to develop a taste for *sushi* and *sashimi*.) There was also a Japanese grocery because Filipinos did not control the retailing of food just as today they do not control the wholesaling. Neither did they own any of the furniture shops. One was owned by a Spaniard and two by a Japanese.

Nothing on R. Hidalgo reminded you of the painter after whom it was named, just as nothing reminded you of Juan Luna, Hidalgo's colleague, in the street of that name. And this is more so today than then.

* * *

Comments are welcome at bambiharper@hotmail.com

Through clear lenses

YOUNGBLOOD

Edward Piñga-Mendoza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

LIKE Filipinos everywhere, I desperately want Philippine society to change for the better. I hope for a more equitable distribution of wealth so that the starving masses can improve their station in life. I hope for a decent government responsive to the needs of the majority. I hope there will be more civic-minded citizens who act beyond personal gain.

I consider People Power II as the first step in that direction. It is a small step in a journey that requires a thousand steps. But it is a crucial and decisive step, especially because our people, acting with a single purpose, took it. From hereon, I thought, the nation would just breeze through the remaining 999 steps. Finally, I told myself, my heart overflowing with happiness and pride, we will get there.

A recent conversation with an officemate, however, made me rethink my expectations after that historic event. One morning about two weeks after the uprising, I asked this officemate, who was something of an activist in college and now sits behind me at work, "What now, after Edsa II?"

Her response was automatic and sounded bitter. "I don't know," she told me. "Let's just wait and see." Her tone was enough to convey the message that she didn't believe the country had a bright future.

Her answer came as a complete surprise to me and I had to look at her again to see if she was serious. The expression on her face said she was not joking.

This officemate participated in the uprising and even missed several days' work, not to mention sleep, her morning shower and her favorite telenovela, just to be there at Edsa. Her unenthusiastic response to my playful question sounded nothing less than a rebuke to Edsa II.

Then a second realization hit me: Her response was essentially similar to the answers of everyone I had popped the question to. Apparently nobody these days, at least among my friends and acquaintances, is very optimistic about the prospects for our country.

It is difficult to define this attitude. There doesn't seem to be a precise word for it. It isn't pessimism, although it is very close to it. It is widespread, at least among the people I know, although it is not being talked about in public forums. If you don't see this attitude in people around you, it's still there and you can feel it just beneath the surface. I detect rage and frustration, perhaps due to a feared, but expected, failure to achieve what people worked and fought so hard for. I can also detect a reluctance to ponder the matter, perhaps because just thinking of the possibility of failure is already too much to bear.

Perhaps we can think of this attitude as guarded optimism, a willingness to let change take its course coupled with an unwillingness to cheer until these changes actually happen. Or it could be an unvoiced and unacknowledged cynicism, a surrender and a reluctant acceptance of the fact that in this country some things are difficult, if not impossible, to change.

Regrettably for the Filipino people, the thread that linked the different sectors at Edsa was weak. We could all agree that Joseph Estrada should be removed from office and that the best thing we could do to bring that to reality was to be there and add ourselves to the thousands of warm bodies at Edsa.

Beyond that, however, we could not agree on anything else. The different sectors that went to Edsa have their own agenda which do not necessarily coincide or even complement those of the other sectors. Worse, there were some who went to Edsa for no noble purpose but just to remove Estrada and his gang so that they could take their places.

It was touching to see businessmen, farmers, factory workers and students standing side by side to fight for a single cause. For a moment, the thick demarcation line separating the haves from the have-nots was breached. For a moment, one could entertain the idea that a more egalitarian society was aborning and that in time everyone will enjoy a better life, including the farmers and factory workers.

On hindsight, however, I see that is plain mushiness and naiveté. It was stretching logic too far to imagine that there would be a sweeping and sudden overhaul in the value system of our society just because some businessmen and farmers shared bread at Edsa. The members of the economic elite, to begin with, may not be willing to share their wealth. They may trust the new administration and wish it well, but are not likely to stop the widespread practice of tax evasion. They may love this country as much as the next guy, but they may not agree that improving working conditions in factories and haciendas and raising their workers' salaries constitute a stronger statement of nationalism than showing up at Edsa. The business sector might have been among the first and the loudest in calling for the ouster of President Estrada, who, as mounting evidence has shown, accepted kickbacks and bribes and tried to shield his cronies from charges of wrongdoing. But does this mean these same businessmen would not ask for favors from their own friends in the government if the opportunity presented itself? Does this mean they will not offer bribes if doing so is convenient or profitable? Indeed one wonders whether they hated Joseph Estrada because he favored a select few or because they were not among the select few.

The youth sector had the biggest representation in Edsa II. In interview after interview, students said they were there because they wanted their voice to be heard. They said they wanted Erap out and they wanted a good government. Maybe I just missed it, but I didn't hear them say they would like to stay in the Philippines to help the country achieve these goals.

I know that most students of medicine, information technology and related courses would prefer to work abroad if they can go there. The image models for this career path, the graduates of the UP College of Medicine, are known to leave for foreign shores as soon as their internship is over. Has there been a change in their plans because of Edsa II? Can the countryside now look forward to having more doctors?

Also among those who flocked to Edsa in large numbers were the farmers and workers. But even there when politicians and entertainers were introduced, they received thundering applause while only a few applauded when leaders of farmers' groups were introduced. For the bitter fact is that while Edsa II was a national upheaval, its epicenter was the posh residential and business district of Edsa, far away from the farms and factories. While many prominent businessmen and politicians who went to Edsa had many issues to resolve, agrarian reform was probably not one of them. I desperately hope I'm wrong, but I don't see this marginalized majority, the farmers and their concerns becoming the government's priority any time soon.

My list of complaints is quite long, but I'll stop here for I do not relish enumerating them. I haven't lost faith in Edsa II, but I now look at the event through clear lenses instead of the rose-colored ones I used to wear. I have stopped expecting things to be easy or to just fall into place. After all, it took several years and the strength and spirit of a whole nation to take that first step. Why did I think that the remaining steps would require less effort?

Besides I have begun to wonder if I wanted it to be easy because I didn't want to contribute any effort, simply sitting back and watching good things happen. And having realized that, I now ask myself how I can help the country as it goes through the remaining steps.

Edward Piñga-Mendoza, 29, works as a programmer in a private company located at Ortigas Center.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

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LETTERS

Campaigns are a serious business

ONCE I caught the tail end of a campaign rally on TV. It was a People Power Coalition rally and though I was glad to see the senators I plan to vote for, I was, like Sen. Nene Pimentel, disgusted with the entertainment and the general tone of the campaign.

Recently Radio Veritas commented on the rally, and it seems that a lot of people were really turned off. The people who phoned said that they were laughing at the entertainers, not with the entertainers. I was sad to see one of my favorite senators join in the dancing. (I'll still vote for him though because he did very well during the impeachment trial.)

Why do we always have to have show-biz people in our campaigns? Why always mix serious issues with dancing and singing that do not even promote Filipino culture? It is not that I have anything against these people, but let us keep them in the movie business where their talents are put to good use. We have seen how they rated during the impeachment trial. I hope that the movie star-wives of candidates will help their candidate-husbands not by singing and dancing for the public, but by showing that they know about the very serious issues that affect the nation and can do their part to help their husbands serve the people.

I think that this is one big area in our lives that needs change. Let us give campaigning and voting the seriousness that is due these processes. I think that these things speak of the maturity of the Filipino people. Let us ask God to heal our land and to give us newness—a new outlook, a new hope, a new way of discerning who deserve our votes. Let us, together, build a new culture, a new history.—**CONCEPCION B. BANAAG, Unit 7, San Juan Town Homes, 140 Argonne corner Vargas Street, San Juan, Metro Manila**

Cheap imports peril poultry industry

THE LOCAL poultry industry is bound to collapse as a result of the recent resurgence of US leg quarters importation. Imperiled are hundreds of small and medium poultry raisers like me and about one million jobs.

From May 2000 to January 2001 under the leadership of Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara, the local poultry industry rapidly recovered from the first surge of US chicken leg importation, which almost killed the industry in 1999 and early 2000, which saw rampant smuggling of US leg quarters through duty-free shops. At the time Angara left the agriculture department, the industry was already poised to launch long-term development initiatives designed to make the industry competitive.

How did Angara do it? First, he centralized in his office the issuance of import permits and banned the importation of US chicken parts, including leg quarters. Only whole dressed chicken and deboned chicken, against which local chicken is competitive, were allowed to be imported.

But after Angara's departure, the Bureau of Animal Industry regained its permit-giving authority and soon reopened the gates to the entry of US chicken parts. Permits for the importation of some 4.5 million kilos of US chicken parts have been issued. Of these, some 1.5 million kilos are now in the local market. Result: the farm-gate price of local chicken crashed from P54 per kilo to only P42 per kilo, a crippling drop of P12 per kilo during the last two weeks. Poultry raisers are now losing P4 to P6 per kilo of chicken sold.

With cheap US chicken parts available, food chains and food processors have stopped using local chicken. In the retail markets, cheap imported US chicken parts are driving local chicken out, a process abetted by hard times.

When Leonardo Montemayor was named agriculture secretary, hope surged in the poultry industry. For several years, Montemayor represented the country's farmers in the House of Representatives. Montemayor came from the Federation of Free Farmers and he would not let the poultry farmers down, it was believed.

Surprisingly, however, he has not found time to hear the poultry farmers' pleas, although they have been knocking at his door for weeks now. Why? Is the secretary mistaking the beleaguered poultry farmers for the giant poultry integrators who today are the major importers of US chicken parts? For his information, the poultry integrators have virtually stopped producing chicken. They are now the leading traders of US chicken parts.

We ask President Macapagal to act soonest to save the poultry industry. We are looking forward to the unfolding of the safety nets she mentioned in her inaugural address.—**EVA MAGGAY-INCIONG, Stagira Farms, Barangay Bagumbayan, Pililla, Rizal**

Muslim leaders backing Rasul

WE found out recently that former Ambassador Sanchez Ali, leader of the Manila-based United Muslim Democrats Group, has criticized former Sen. Santanina Rasul for running as an independent candidate.

First, the former ambassador should be proud that a Muslim like Rasul has the guts to run, even as an independent, because she believes in the ummah. She is fighting for all of us. The former ambassador should not say the things he said. He should support our candidate.

Second, Ali and Rasul belong to the same party, Lakas-NUCD-UMDP. He should not be making these bad statements. He makes Muslims look bad as well. We should be united. We should not criticize each other publicly on this matter.

Third, even if the Manila-based UMDP does not support Rasul, we do, and there are more of us than them. Also, the real leaders who can deliver votes are all behind Rasul like Governor Loong of Sulu, Governor Akbar of Basilan, Governor Sadikul of Tawi-Tawi, Governor Mutilan of Lanao del Sur and Governor Candao of Maguindanao.—**ALEM MUHAMAD ABDULRACMAN, director, Arabic School, Baclaran, Pasay City; HADJ JAMIL PANTAR, Pasay City Muslim Multi-Purpose Cooperative; DATU AMEROL AMBIONG, chair, Metro Manila Muslim Peace and Order Coordinating Council; H. NOOR COMILING, Pasay City**

Mutual bad faith

SENATORIAL candidates Wigberto Tañada and Joker Arroyo said there is a lack of interest in the subject of nationalism among voters. It is more correct to say that the people who go to election rallies or meetings do so with the intention of being entertained and not educated, to be made to laugh and not to think. Most of them regard these rallies as a break from an existence characterized by hard, tedious and almost always unrewarding work.

Why is this so?

In our experience, recent elections have been characterized by bad faith. While they are supposed to be political exercises, a time when issues affecting the life of the nation are raised, analyzed and solutions thereto put forward, the candidates have not done their part. They come to beg, often tastelessly, for votes, to slander their opponents, to orate on motherhood statements, and just about anything else except confront the problems and propose thoughtful solutions. Their campaign is superficial and focused on personalities, faces, names.

The candidates sing, dance, joke or deliver their one-liners, prance around like buffoons and clown their way to the hearts of the electors—or so they hope. Truly, there is hardly any difference between the coming of the circus and the entry of the politicians and their cheering squads.

In such an atmosphere, who cares to listen to a discussion on such topics as nationalism, political platforms, etc.? No one. Campaign sorties simply are not for teaching and not for learning.

Those who flock to the "miting" do so to exact a price for their votes on those who will lord it over them after the polls. Experience has taught them that these "*pa*-humble" personalities today will tomorrow surround themselves with their lackeys and imperiously decide the fate of their constituents.

Election time is the time to turn things around. For the short period of the campaign, the *dons* and *doñas* kowtow, sweat in the streets and distribute goodies or money. People gather around the stage to see these personalities do the boogie and make fools of themselves while the *hakots* do so because they are paid to create the illusion of popular support for the cheats.

Do the people go there to listen to serious talk about the political agenda of the candidates? They know too well they will only hear lies and promises. So, jokes *na lang*. At least they get entertained instead of getting *kabag* from all the hot air that blows your way.

This sad state of affairs will go on unless there is a concerted long-range nationwide effort to counter it. (I thought civil society was going to do so.) A systematic program to educate the people should be undertaken during the election period, a course on democracy in action as it were. As of now, *bastusan lang ang nangyayari. Ginagago lang ang kapwa.*—**ANGELO J. DE LOS REYES, 28 Tindalo St., Town & Country Executive Village, Antipolo City**

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Danger in making Puwersa win

HONESTO General's column last March 5 ought to be disseminated among as many people as possible, particularly Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System members.

There is grave danger to the present economic gains and to our country's stability if ex-President Estrada's senatorial and congressional candidates win the May 14 elections. If they garner the majority in both houses of Congress, they will move to impeach President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, thereby creating a political crises. With their huge war chest and the active backing of Eduardo Cojuangco, these people are bound to create havoc on the economy and they would not care less what happens to everybody else.

It is therefore imperative that a serious campaign particularly in the urban areas be continuously waged against all the candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa of the Estrada-Cojuangco clique so that the mischief they are planning will be frustrated.—**ARMANDO G. LIM, Marfori Heights Subd., Davao City**

Passion come to life

I WROTE simply to thank you for publishing my article, "The Scarlet Pimplenel," on the March 13 issue.

It is truly gratifying for us non-professional writers to see our passion come to life in the pages of the INQUIRER.

For me, it was an exceptional experience to see my article in print.—**RENELAINE BONTOL, San Roque Street, San Vicente Village, Mandaue, Cebu**

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Mir fragments slam to earth after 15 yrs

KOROLYOV—Charred fragments of the Mir space station yesterday slammed into the South Pacific after a final rocket burst sent the orbiter hurtling to Earth, ending the station's 15-year voyage in space.

"The Mir has finished its triumphant flight," a Mission Control announcer said just before 9 a.m. Mission Control said the remains of Mir had hit the water but some lighter fragments were still gliding toward Earth.

Associated Press journalists on Fiji saw the blazing wreckage in the distance as it plummeted toward the South Pacific. It was unclear where the debris fell.

An Australian emergency official said that there were no reports of damage caused by falling debris.

"Splashdown has occurred in that area where it was predicted. We don't have any report of any other damage at this stage," David Templeman, executive director of Emergency Management Australia. The government body was to coordinate possible responses in case parts of Mir hit Australia.

Russian space officials were exuberant over what they characterized as a flawless achievement.

"It has been an exemplary operation, and our experts have not made a mistake in any single step, not in a millimeter. The world has become convinced that Russia knows not only how to build spacecraft but how to control them and how to forecast their flight.

"Russia will remain a great space power," said Yuri Koptev, the head of the Russian Aerospace agency.

The Progress cargo ship docked with the Mir fired the last of three thrusts at 8:07 a.m. while the station was over Egypt, the most crucial moment in a series of computer-driven overnight maneuvers to guide the craft to its final dumping zone somewhere between Australia and Chile.

Vyacheslav Mikhailichenko, a space agency spokesperson, said the Mir would enter the atmosphere at a steeper angle, meaning that the debris would fall into a more compact area within the dumping zone.

According to trajectory projections, the Mir entered the atmosphere at 8:44 a.m. and was to begin burning and then breaking up eight minutes later. Mir was out of Russian radio range, but Mission Control announced that American radars had confirmed that the space station was on its way down on its planned flight path.

Fragments were calculated to begin hitting a wide swathe of ocean at 200-300 meters per second about 25-30 minutes after the rockets finished the final, approximately 20-minute burn. Boats and planes had been warned to stay out of the area.

Earlier, the Progress' eight engines thrusted according to commands issued by Mir's onboard computer at 3:31 a.m. for 21 minutes when Mir was just below the Equator over the Indian Ocean.

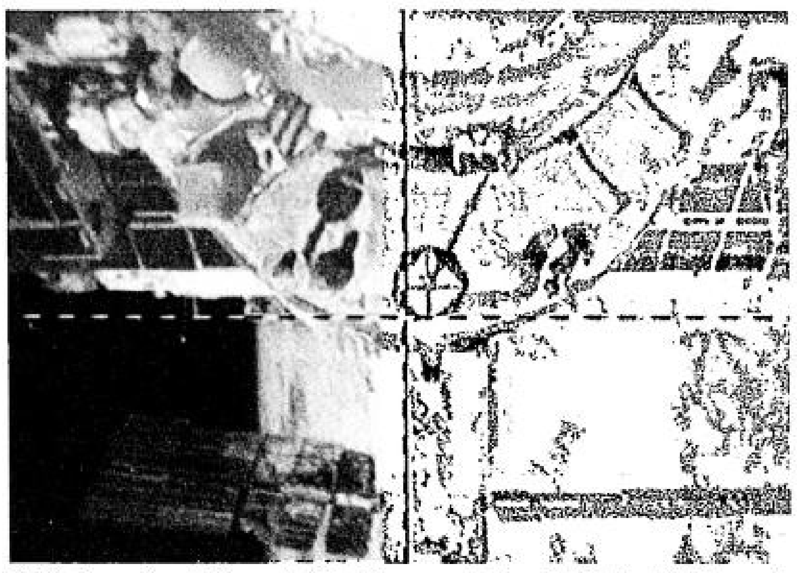
A second impulse that lasted 24 minutes successfully took place an hour and a half later as Mir crossed over East Africa. Both thrusts, known as burns, were aimed at slowing Mir's speed and bringing it into its final pre-crash orbit.

The final burst plunged the station into the atmosphere over the Pacific and into the waters between Australia and Chile, a zone that centers roughly around 40 degrees south latitude and 160 degrees west longitude, slightly different than previously indicated. That put the center of the Mir sinking about 1,500 km northwest of the planned site.

Because the craft broke up only after it was out of contact with the last Russian radar station on the eastern Pacific coastline, no hard information was immediately available on exactly where the fragments hit the Earth's surface.

Russian officials could only calculate the precise place of impact by following the trajectory the station had begun as it entered the atmosphere.

On its last day, Mir soaked up the sun's energy to power its fickle batteries, stabilized its alignment and made its last orbits around Earth. All maneuvers went smoothly, but uncertainty prevailed until the very end about just where heavy chunks of metal left after Mir burns up in the atmosphere will actually fall. *AP*


IN this image from TV a part of the Mir space station with the "limb" of the earth in the background is recorded by the station's camera and broadcast to the Russian Mission Control. AP

Mir symbol of endurance in space

NEW YORK—Mir survived fires, collisions, equipment failure, even the collapse of the government that launched it. But in the end, politics and pragmatism brought the 135-ton spacecraft down. During 15 years in orbit, the Russian space station showed that people could spend months, even years, living in space.

"It outlived its usefulness," said James Kirkpatrick, executive director of the American Astronautical Society. "It would just cost too much to keep it going."

Almost until the end, a small group of supporters campaigned for the preservation of Mir. They argued that the spacecraft could become a commercial facility, hosting tourists and serving as a location for television and film production.

"The political campaign to keep Mir alive was very strong," said Roald Sagdeev, a professor at the University of Maryland and former head of the Soviet space program. "They wanted to use it as a tourist attraction."

But efforts to save Mir failed in the face of opposition by Nasa and a lack of financial support.

Its name meant "peace," but Mir's great accomplishment was endurance. Launched Feb. 20, 1986, it was occupied almost continuously by more than 100 visitors from 12 countries. One cosmonaut, Valeri Polyakov, stayed aboard for 438 consecutive days.

Another, Sergei Avdeyev, spent a total of more than two years in space over three flights.

As a result, said Rick Tumlinson of the Space Frontier Foundation, "the Russians know more about long-duration space flight than we have ever come close to."

Much of that knowledge was acquired during 1997, when a series of hair-raising crises threatened both Mir and its inhabitants. In February, a fire reduced oxygen levels in the station to perilously low levels. In June, the collision of an arriving cargo ship punched a hole in the station, forcing its crew to seal off the module that was punctured. In August, both the main and backup oxygen generators failed.

Yet most experts believe Mir's problems were overdramatized, and that similar problems will undoubtedly arise as the International Space Station ages.

"Five, 10 years down the road," said space historian Charles Vick of the Federation of American Scientists, "we're going to have the same problems the Russians had."

Life on Mir was much more relaxed than the highly professional environment aboard Nasa's shuttle. Cosmonauts drank cognac, reportedly smoked the occasional cigarette and posted lewd drawings above the toilet.

When it was first launched, Mir served as a symbol of the Soviet Union's technological prowess and leadership in space exploration. *AP*

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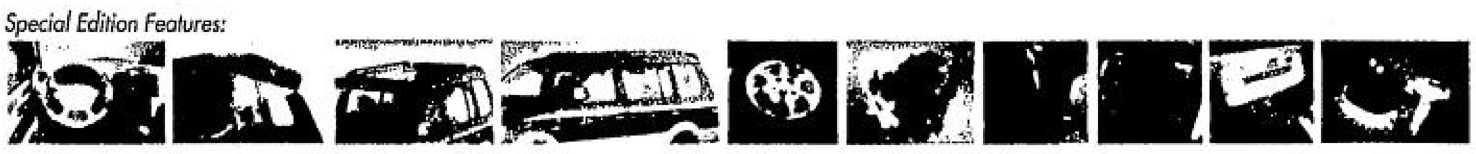

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Macedonia prepares for more reb attacks

TETOVO, Macedonia—Macedonia was bracing for a fresh wave of heavy fighting yesterday, as ethnic Albanian rebels ignored a government ultimatum to lay down their arms and Skopje warned of an "uncompromising" crackdown.

The Macedonian government signaled its determination to destroy the rebels, with a renewed onslaught Thursday on the back of EU support that the campaign be put firmly in the hands of Army commanders.

Government spokesperson Antonio Milososki said the struggle against the ethnic insurrection in the northwest would be "uncompromising."

The guerrillas in the hills above Tetovo—a town in the heartland of Macedonia's large Albanian minority—came under heavy fire Thursday after failing to use a government-imposed 24-hour respite to meet with Skopje's demands to surrender or withdraw.

Instead, the rebels—who had announced their own ceasefire just before the government truce ran out, and called for talks on Albanians' rights—appeared to be making good on threats to intensify the conflict.

Two men pulled up in front of a sandbagged police position near Tetovo stadium in an attempted grenade attack, which ended when police gunned the two men down, killing them both.

In a separate attack about a dozen kilometers west of the capital Skopje, private television A1 reported that another police officer was seriously injured in a shooting blamed on the rebels.

One of two policemen shot in a Skopje market Wednesday was reported to have died of his injuries.

The scattered attacks could mark a shift of rebel tactics away from their offensive on the edge Tetovo, which has been deadlocked for nine days and appeared to be swinging in the government's favor after the Army deployed tanks and cannons to back up special police units.

Milososki insisted the series of clashes Thursday were a "clear response to our ultimatum" to the rebels to down their arms by midnight Wednesday.

"From now on our response will be clear and every action by the security forces will depend only on the decisions of our field commanders," Milososki said.

"The fight against terrorism will be uncompromising," he insisted, warning that the rebels "have been preparing another attack" on the security forces. *AFP*

Painting stolen

MOSCOW—A 19th-century painting by French artist Jean-Leon Gerome was stolen from St Petersburg's famed Hermitage Museum on Thursday, news agencies reported.

Unidentified thieves cut the painting, named "Pool in a Harem," out of its frame during the busy hours of day, forcing harried security guards to search all of the huge museum's visitors and employees, the independent NTV television said.

Though the painting had been insured for as much as one million dollars, it was not equipped with an alarm system, museum officials quoted by the NTV said.

The painting, created in 1876, had been bought by Tsar Alexander III of Russia to decorate one of his palaces. It was handed over to the Hermitage in 1918. *AFP*

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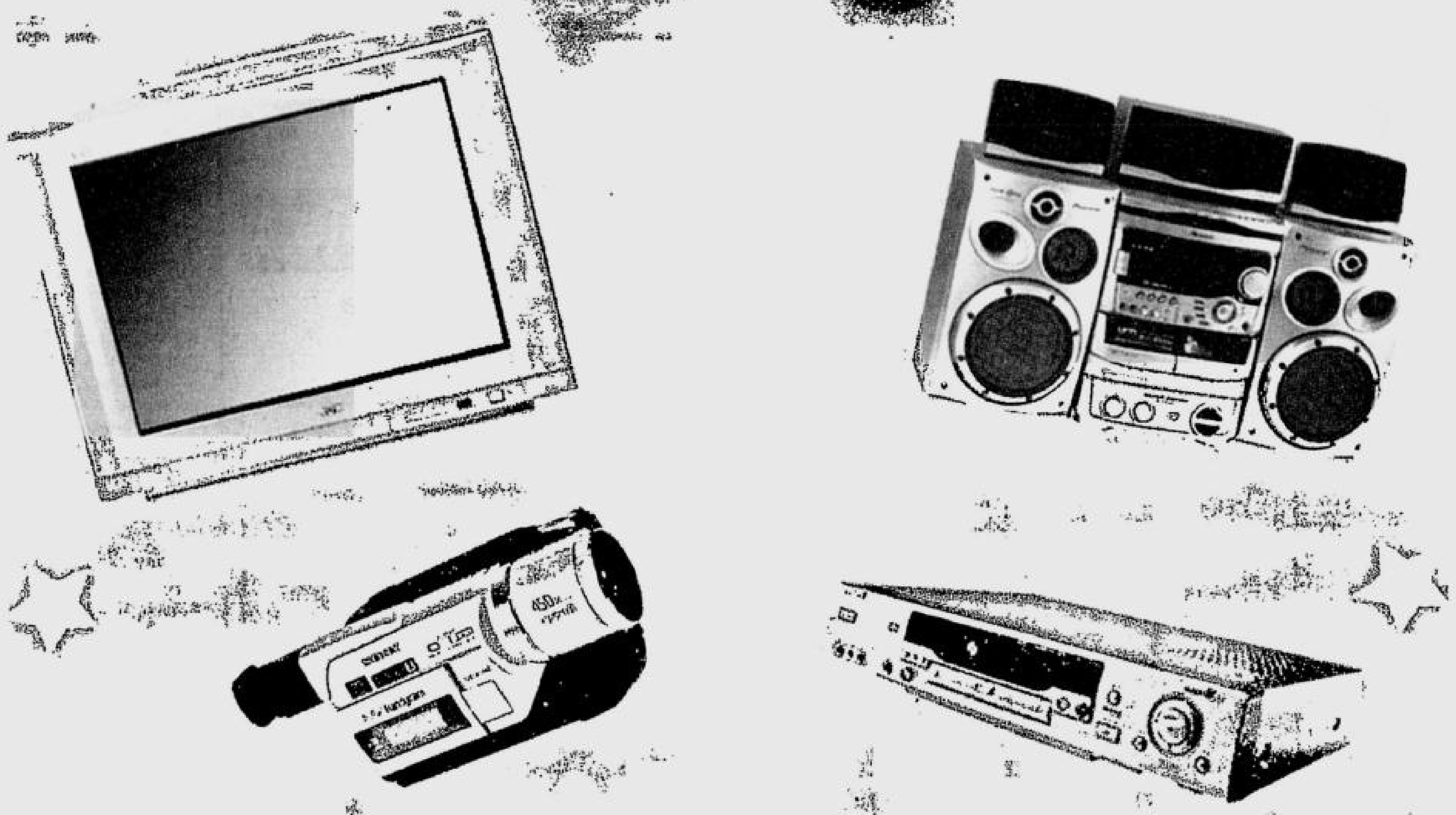

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SLAVE LABOR

US POWs seek suit vs Japan

WASHINGTON—US prisoners of war forced into slave labor in Japan during World War II must have the right to sue those companies, House members said Thursday as they introduced legislation targeted not at Japan but at the US government.

"Our own State Department is the biggest obstacle to justice," impeding the POWs' lawsuits against Japanese companies that forced them to work for years while they were beaten, starved and denied medical care, said Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican, who coauthored the bill with Rep. Mike Honda, a Democrat.

The department has said the 1951 peace treaty between the United States and Japan prohibits the lawsuits against the private companies—many of them now household names in the United States, such as Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsui and Co., and Nippon Steel Corp.

"Japan is continuing to settle war claims from nationals of other countries while American former prisoners of war are being denied a fair hearing," Rohrabacher said. "Our legislation is designed to correct this shameful inequity."

US District Court Judge Vaughn Walker in San Francisco accepted the State Department's interpretation of the treaty in September when he dismissed lawsuits brought by three dozen former POWs. The debt, he added, had been paid by "the immeasurable bounty of life for themselves and their posterity in a free society and in a more peaceful world."

That's just not good enough, said 82-year-old former POW Lester Tenney, who was forced to work for Mitsui mines after being ordered to surrender in Bataan.

"I shoveled coal in Japan for almost three years. I shoveled coal 12 hours a day. I was never paid and I never got proper tools and I never got medical care. I would like them to apologize to me. I would like to have them say to me: 'We are sorry, sincerely sorry for what we did to you, how we deprived you of so much of life.'"

"I think also they should pay me for the work I performed for them," he said. "Anything else they want to do is fine, but that's what I'm looking for."

There are about 3,000 surviving POWs like Tenney, and many more who have died whose survivors may also pursue cases, he said.

Honda, a Japanese-American, said "deeply personal" reasons moved him to become involved in this case. His family was sent to an internment camp during World War II, freed only when his father volunteered to serve in military intelligence.

"It was once taboo in my community to discuss the internment," he said, "but the redress movement put a stop to that."

The POWs' lawsuits are another form of redress, Honda said.

"It's about reconciliation and setting the record straight," he said. "This is not about bashing another country, another group of people."

The legislation direct courts not to read the 1951 treaty as constituting a ban on claims by the United States or its citizens. *AP*

Bush tells China US to back Taiwan military needs

WASHINGTON—Acknowledging areas of difference, President George W. Bush told a Chinese leader Thursday that the United States will support the military needs of rival Taiwan and push for human rights reforms in Beijing.

"Our relationship will move forward, but it would certainly be a lot easier to move forward in a constructive way when (the) people with whom we conduct our affairs honor religious freedom within their borders," the president said at the top of an hour-long meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen.

The leaders shied away from specifics, but did not deny their nations had many differences: Chinese opposition to Bush's missile defense plans, potential US arms sales to China nemesis Taiwan and allegations of human rights abuses by Beijing.

"I look forward to committing to this distinguished leader that (despite) any disagreements that we will have we will conduct ourselves with mutual respect," Bush said, with a nod to his guest.

"I'll be firm—and I suspect he will be firm—in our opinions, but we'll do so in a respectful way. It is in our nations' best interests that we have good relations with China."

According to advisers, Bush reassured Qian in private: "Nothing we do is a threat to you, and I want you to tell that to your leadership."

Preparing for the Oval Office meeting, Qian had talked to top administration officials about Iraqi sanctions, Chinese and North Korean missile proliferation and obstacles preventing China from joining the World Trade Organization.

"Where we have shared interests, we can advance our relationship forward. Where we disagree, we can have very good exchange of views," Qian, seated side-by-side with Bush in arm chairs, said through an interpreter.

After days of hesitation from his aides, Bush confirmed that he will visit Beijing in the fall as part of a broader Asian trip. He recalled visiting the nation in 1975, when he was about 28 and his father was US ambassador to China. *AP*

Mexico rebels study invitation by Congress

MEXICO CITY—Zapatista rebels said Thursday they were considering an invitation to address the Mexican Congress, but told President Vicente Fox there would be no peace talks until their conditions are met.

The insurgents want to lobby for passage of an indigenous rights bill, which is one of their three conditions for holding negotiations. The other demands are for the closure of seven military bases in Chiapas and the release of about 100 political prisoners.

Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) leader "Subcomandante Marcos" appeared pleased with the invitation to address Congress, telling a rally outside the Congress building that the insurgents would show "the same sensitivity" in answering it as lawmakers did in making it.

"We will seriously analyze this proposal and will give a serious and respectful answer to the legislative branch," he said.

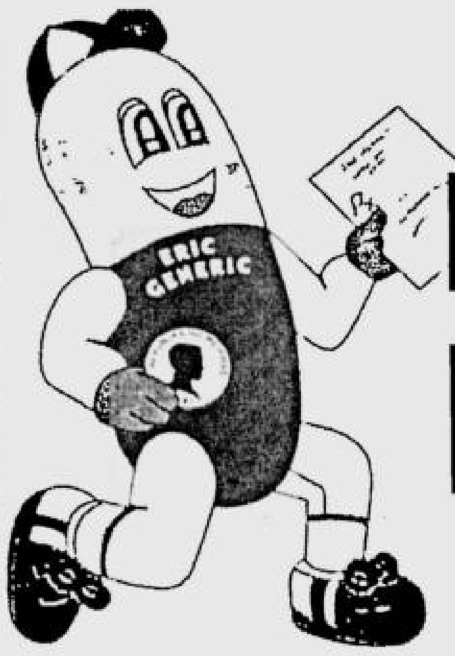
He promised a swift response, but did not say whether he would postpone his plans to head back to his jungle stronghold on Friday, two weeks after he and another 24 masked but unarmed EZLN leaders arrived in Mexico City.

While deputies voted 220-210 to allow a Zapatista leader to address members of legislative commissions in the plenary hall of Congress, the offer fell short of a demand by Marcos to speak before a joint plenary session.

Several members of Fox's conservative National Action Party (PAN) staunchly opposed the invitation, pointing out that the EZLN never withdrew the declaration of war it issued seven years ago.

Fox himself, however, supported the move, as well as the bill, and invited Marcos for a meeting, but the leftist rebels on Thursday formally turned down the invitation.

They told the president in a letter such talks would only be held once their conditions—which they call "signals"—are implemented. *AFP*



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March 24, 2001 – Inquirer

Ethnic violence erupts anew on Indonesia island

JAKARTA—Renewed communal violence broke out on Indonesia's part of Borneo island and police were ordered to shoot troublemakers, a spokesperson said yesterday.

Police Col. Sukarji said 600 officers had been dispatched to the town of Kualakapuas in Central Kalimantan province, about 900 km northeast of Jakarta to prevent indigenous Dayaks from attacking settlers from other parts of Indonesia.

About 700 migrants from the island of Madura were sheltering at the town's sports stadium after fleeing their homes, said Sukarji, who, like many Indonesians, uses only one name.

He said police officers and soldiers were patrolling Kualakapuas and would shoot Dayak rioters on sight.

Abdul Muin, a doctor at the town's hospital, said 12 people had been killed in the past two days. One of the bodies had been decapitated by the Dayaks, who believe they gain strength from the victim's spirit.

He said Dayak gangs were still hunting for the Madurese in forests around the town and that the death toll could rise.

The state Antara news agency said at least 17 people had been killed.

The latest violence adds to a death toll of more than 450 people slaughtered in a campaign of ethnic cleansing in other towns in Central Kalimantan in the past few weeks.

More than 70,000 migrants, mostly Madurese, have been forced to flee the region since the killings started on Feb. 18. Dayaks have vowed to kill any Madurese who try to return.

Meanwhile in Jakarta, President Abdurrahman Wahid met with Dayak and Madurese representatives after a day of peace talks between the two sides.

Wahid said he hoped the violence would stop. *AP*

Pakistan braces for more protests

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani police are on high alert yesterday to prevent a planned democracy demonstration from hijacking the military regime's official Pakistan Day parades.

Hundreds of politicians and their supporters have already been rounded up and police have sealed the historic Mochi Gate park in the eastern city of Lahore, where the demonstration is scheduled to take place.

Political leaders claim more than 2,000 people have been taken from their homes and detained this week, although police put the number at about 200.

In Islamabad, the military will take center stage Friday with a 31-gun salute at sunrise followed by a huge parade of tanks and missiles, with air force jets swooping low in formation over the vacant parliamentary complex.

It was on March 23, 1940, that the Muslim League adopted the Pakistan Resolution, and Muslims throughout the sub-continent began their campaign to cleave a separate homeland out of British India.

But 61 years on, Pakistan's economy is buried under a mountain of foreign debt, religious violence between the majority Sunni and minority Shiite sects is rampant, and democratic institutions are in ruins.

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who led a bloodless coup against the Nawaz Sharif government in October 1999 to become Pakistan's fourth military ruler, plans to build a "genuine democracy" and hold elections by Oct. 12 next year. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Erratum: "Tete" alive

LEGAZPI CITY—The family of businessman Rodrigo "Tete" Chua yesterday belied reports that he died after he was shot several times by two teen-looking suspects inside a cockpit in Barangay Gabao, Gubat, Sorsogon. The denial was made through Irma Guhit, Philippine Information Agency Sorsogon provincial manager and a friend of Chua's wife, who said Chua survived an operation in a Manila-based hospital. Chua suffered critical gunshot wounds and had to be airlifted to Manila. A Sorsogon policeman, who lives in Albay, said he saw Chua's condition and predicted that he would not make it alive. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 persons killed

DIGOS CITY—Two persons were killed in a noontime shooting in Tacurong City on Wednesday. Police said Mansud Budi and Taguding Minandang were taking a nap in a gasoline station along the national highway when two motorcycle-riding men, wearing bonnets, fired at them. The police are still determining the motive of the killing.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 towns hold plebiscite

TABACO, Albay—Ligao and Tabaco towns in Albay are set to hold a plebiscite today as a last requirement to become cities. Close to 50,000 registered voters of this premier town are expected to participate in the plebiscite, while 35,000 are expected in Ligao. Commission on Elections director Wenceslao Reyes said his office is ready for the conduct of the simultaneous plebiscites. Tabaco has 47 barangays with a 90,000 population and a total land area of 12,210 hectares while Ligao has 55 villages with 85,000 population and a total land area of 24,640 hectares.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gun ban violators nabbed

COTABATO CITY—Police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) on Sunday arrested six persons for violating the election gun ban. Chief Supt. Jilhani Nani, ARMM police chief, said police operatives in Marawi City arrested Summy Munder, Jamal Hadji Azis, Samondaya Cota, Pagorodin Sagah, Faizal Munder and Alex Cota for their failure to present gun ban exemptions. Taken from them were five Armalite rifles and a cal. 38 revolver. It was not clear whether they are government forces or civilians. They are now detained in the Marawi City jail.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Abducted farmer released

PILA, Laguna—The farmer leader who was abducted on March 9 by a still unidentified armed group surfaced on March 18, according to Pila police chief Supt. Cesar Valencia. Valencia said the only words that Christopher Chielo Suello remembered hearing from his abductors were their repeated questions on whether he knew something about the murder of the vice mayor of Lumban. Suello is a member of the Samahan ng mga Tricycle Operators at Drivers of Pila and the Samahan ng mga Maralitang Mamamayan ng Pila. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

No to Comelec control

COTABATO CITY—The Cotabato City Council has rejected a proposal from Councilor Froilan Melendrez to place the city under the control of the Commission on Elections (Comelec). Councilor Magno Adalin, chair of the committee on police and peace and order, said the current situation in the city does not warrant its being placed under Comelec control. Supt. Amerodin Hamdag, city police chief, said the series of bombings, which Melendrez made as a basis for his recommendation, was not election-related. Three bomb explosions rocked this city in the past two weeks including a foiled attempt to bomb the Cotabato Cathedral last Sunday. Hamdag said the city remains peaceful.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Local bets sign covenants for peaceful, clean polls

CANDIDATES for local positions in some areas in the Visayas and Mindanao are taking the path of peace during the election campaign, if the covenants they signed would hold fast.

In Iloilo City, 70 candidates for mayor, vice mayor and councilors signed an agreement binding them to clean and honest elections.

The covenant, entitled "Manifesto Sang Isa Ka Kandidato (A Manifesto of a Candidate)," binds candidates to put up a good fight but never cheat.

Candidates attending the forums organized by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) of the archdiocese of Jaro and radio stations here were asked to each sign the covenant.

Fr. Meliton Oso, head of the PPCRV of Jaro, said the covenant would bind candidates to good governance if they are elected into office.

"The covenant is for pay back time," said Father Oso.

Aside from signing the covenant, candidates also promised to join a forum 100 days after being elected to office where they would report their accomplishments and answer questions raised by their constituents on unfulfilled promises.

"We want to ensure that transparency and accountability reigns in our local government units," said Father Oso. He said after the elections, the PPCRV will be transformed into a watchdog with a slight change of name—Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Government.

Father Oso said the group will sit in committees like bids and awards, school boards and development councils to ensure that projects are graft-free.

"Through voters' vigilance, we are hoping that there would be less waiting sheds and basketball courts and probably more projects that address poverty and joblessness," said Father Oso.

Despite charges of corruption ranging from ghost barangay roads to plastic chairs, nongovernment organizations in Iloilo City have not been active in the anti-graft crusade.

Only Batad town, 125 kilometers north of Iloilo, developed a program wherein they could dialogue with their officials.

The program, "Pahayag," was cited by civil society groups as a model of transparency and good governance in Iloilo.

In Digos City, at least 60 candidates also signed a manifesto against cheating.

The signing was done at the Comelec office.

The one-page manifesto states that candidates would respect the sanctity of the ballot.

The signatories also pledged not to buy votes, use force or intimidate voters.

In the same manifesto, the candidates were also made to pledge to conduct a clean and peaceful campaign.

"I hope all (the signatories) will be sincere," said Isaias Gravador, a candidate for city councilor. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau and Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Blasts threaten Vizcaya caves

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—An environmental group in Nueva Vizcaya has expressed alarm over the ongoing road construction in the upland town of Kasibu, saying blasting done as part of the project threatens the natural wonders of the world-class caves in Barangay Capissaan there.

Members of the Sang-at Salug Outdoor Club, in a visit to the area last week, said residents in the village informed them of the supposed destruction of geological formations inside the Alayan and Lion caves.

The residents claimed that the destruction was caused by dynamite blasting done to improve a road leading to an entrance to the caves.

SSOC members, citing reports from residents near the tourist spot, said several stalagmites and stalactites fell and were broken while other rock formations inside the caves' walls collapsed because of the impact of explosions near the area.

The project's contractor reportedly resorted to dynamite blasting to remove huge rocks in the area being traversed by the 2.5-kilometer road project.

Eric Bangad, club president, said they would inspect the caves next week to assess the extent of the damage and to verify the cause of the destruction.

"That was only an initial report we received. We still need to verify the cause of the supposed damage inside the caves," he said.

He said they still have to check if the collapse of stalactites were really caused by severe vibrations from the blasting activities in the road project.

"There have been some stalactites and stalagmites that were destroyed but we do not know if this was done by cave visitors or they were freshly cut due to the ongoing project," he said.

The provincial government has implemented a P2-million circumferential road project to reduce travel time to the Alayan cave.

Gov. Rodolfo Aghayani denied the alleged destruction of the caves' rock formations, saying the blasting operations were done far from the area.

He said the project would provide an all-weather route for local and foreign tourists who want to go to the Alayan cave.

"This is very far from that area. It will not affect it at all. Nonetheless, I will have that report investigated," he said.

Manolo Norial, chief of construction, repair and restoration division of the provincial engineering office, said they would inspect the area to verify the reports. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Wanted bet arrested by NBI

DIGOS CITY—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested on Thursday afternoon a congressional candidate who was convicted of estafa by a Regional Trial Court in Manila in 1990.

NBI operatives arrested Pablo Villaber, an independent congressional candidate for Davao del Sur's first district, as he was walking out of the prosecutors office of the Hall of Justice in Digos City where he filed a libel case against his rival reelectionist Rep. Douglas Cagas.

Villaber, who is also the president of the multi-million Manila-based Malayan Integrated Industries Corp., showed no resistance when arrested and joined the NBI agents who brought him to the NBI regional office in Davao City.

But Villaber said the arrest warrant used by the NBI operatives was issued in January 1994 in relation to estafa Case No. 8646197 at Manila's RTC Branch 15 of which he was already absolved.

"I do not understand why the NBI invoked that arrest warrant when that should have been already revoked since I was absolved by the court," said Villaber, whose business ventures involve mining and real estate development in Davao del Sur, Metro Manila and Cebu.

Villaber even wrote NBI Chief Reynaldo Wycoco informing him that the case against him was already resolved in his favor.

He said he believes Cagas used his influence and authority to manipulate the NBI to have him arrested. *Jowel Canuday and Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bogus reporters swoop down on Pampanga

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—More than 40 bogus reporters have made Pampanga the base for their extortion racket in Central and Northern Luzon, asking for money, free meals and other favors from candidates running in the May 14 elections, the Pampanga Press Club said.

"The *hao-shaos* (a term for scalawag reporters) have proliferated. They mushroom when it's election time," Lamberto Basa, PPC president, said.

At more than 40, these fake reporters have outnumbered PPC members, who only count 37 and are mostly correspondents for national dailies.

"They go on extortion activities like what some policemen do," Basa said.

Often, these fake reporters go around the two regions in groups of 10 and, apart from asking the candidates to shoulder their vehicle rental, also demand free meals and money.

They swarm offices of public officials or houses of candidates, queuing like solicitors asking donations for basketball games, Holy Week activities and the usual expenses for KBL or "*kasal, binyag at libing* (marriage, christening and burial)."

Excluding free meals, these *hao-shaos* earn an average of P500 daily, Basa estimates.

"Election time is profitable for them, it's like greeting everyone 'Merry Christmas,'" he said.

Unlike legitimate local reporters who seldom display their press cards because public officials and sources have known them, bogus reporters carry around unusually big press cards of spurious news organizations.

Basa said most of the fake reporters used to be jeepney drivers, barkers and unemployed undergraduates. Most of them are men.

"They have discovered they can command authority by pretending they are journalists. But their victims, especially those who have dealt with legitimate journalists, have easily detected the racket in the way these *hao-shaos* conduct themselves," Basa said.

"I think theirs is a question of survival. However, they lend a bad name to legitimate media practitioners," he said.

Fly-by-night newspapers have also sprouted in the province and are being used by politicians to attack their opponents.

Officials of the Commission on Elections in Central Luzon confirmed the rise in the number of fake reporters. Comelec officials said they themselves have been victimized.

"They go to the office anytime they want, talk to us as if we have known them for quite a long time. Before they leave, they tell us the price they want. I was shocked when a group asked for P5,000 and promised that the Comelec will be featured in one of the pages of a paper I have never heard of," the Comelec official, a lawyer, said Thursday.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Parasites strike

BACOLOD CITY—Blood parasites have killed 18 carabaos and 28 horses in southern Negros Occidental, provincial veterinarian Renante Decena said yesterday.

Decena said his office is keeping a close watch to prevent the spread of the blood parasites (*trypanosamiasis*).

He said the parasites multiply in the blood stream, lymphatic vessels, tissues and the central nervous system.

The parasites incubate in one to four weeks and ill animals suffer from fever, weight loss, anemia.

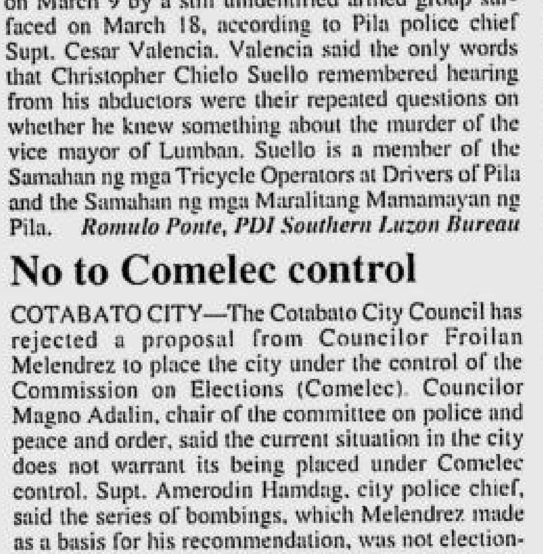
The disease was first discovered in Barangays Lupni and Tampalon, Kabankalan City, on Jan. 10.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA



Metro Manila Hi 34° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 27° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 34° Lo 24°	Laoag Hi 34° Lo 23°
Clark Zone Hi 35° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 22°	Legazpi Hi 30° Lo 24°	Calapan Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 32° Lo 26°	Cebu Hi 30° Lo 24°	Tacloban Hi 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos Hi 29° Lo 22°	Zamboanga Hi 31° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

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PUT YOUR NAME
IN PHILIPPINE
LITERATURE

Future Fiction Category

	First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Filipino	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00
English	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00

Short Story Category

	First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Filipino	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00
English	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00
Hiligaynon	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00
Iluko	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00
Cebuano	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00

Screenplay Category

	First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Filipino	₱27,000.00	₱12,000.00	₱10,000.00

Full-length Play Category

	First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Filipino	₱17,000.00	₱10,000.00	₱7,000.00
English	₱17,000.00	₱10,000.00	₱7,000.00

Poetry, Essay, One-act Play and Short Story for Children Categories

	First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Filipino	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00
English	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00

Teleplay Category

	First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Filipino	₱12,000.00	₱9,000.00	₱7,000.00

Kabataan Essay

	First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Filipino	₱8,000.00	₱5,000.00	₱3,000.00
English	₱8,000.00	₱5,000.00	₱3,000.00

(The schools of the students winning the first prizes will each receive a cash prize of ₱5,000.00)

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Voting without 'guarantors' dream of illiterates in rural Visayas areas

BY CYNTHIA BORGUETA
Tacloban City

MANO Tino, 55, a resident of Barangay Cinco, Sta. Margarita town, Samar, does not know how to read and write. On election day, he and 15 others like him in his village would troop to the polling center to cast their votes.

They would be then accompanied by a "guarantor," a term given to a supporter of a politician on Samar Island.

"How do you vote when you do not know how to read and write?" Mana Gloria, a retired teacher in Calbayog City, had asked him. "The guarantor would do the job for me," he replied.

In the past six years, the literacy rate in Eastern Visayas particular in Samar, Western Samar, Northern Samar and Southern Leyte is low, which the Department of Education Culture and Sports finds alarming.

But the Commission on Elections (Comelec) noted a high voter turnout during the 1998 presidential elections in these provinces.

High turnout

Records at the Comelec in Eastern Visayas showed that the voters' turnout in Southern Leyte was 91 percent and 88 percent in Western Samar, Northern Samar and Samar.

Adolfo Ibañez, Comelec regional director, said a functionally illiterate voter has to declare that he or she does not know how read and write during registration.

Failure to disclose such information, he said, would lead to the forfeiture of the right to vote.

Ibañez said a voter, who does not know how to read and write, will be assisted by an election inspector in casting his or her votes.

Tacloban City Councilor Pedro Panes, who is seeking reelection, raised the possibility that some election inspectors might just write the names of their favored candidates on the ballots, instead of putting the name of the voters' chosen candidates.

He said there was no way for these voters to countercheck if the election inspectors followed their instructions because they did not know how to read.

Low literacy rate

The literacy rate in Eastern Visayas was at the bottom in all 15 regions of the country. This prompted the DECS to find ways to improve the situation, which was worsening not so much in the urban areas but in the remote barangays of the five provinces of Eastern Visayas.

The 1994 survey conducted by the National Statistic Office in Tacloban on functional literacy showed that about 20 percent of residents in six Eastern Visayas provinces were illiterate.

The survey results showed that only 79.72 percent of the 1,985,000 respondents knew how to read and write.

The respondents were between 10 to 64 years old and were residents of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Samar, Western Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar.

Of the six provinces surveyed by the NSO, three provinces were found to have "very low" functional literacy.

These were Northern Samar, Samar and Southern Leyte.

Of the 272,000 respondents in Northern Samar, only 73.63 percent could understand a message in any dialect. Only 76.41 percent of the 292,000 respondents in Samar knew how to read and write. In Southern Leyte, only 86.35 of the respondents were literate.

Functional literacy

The DECS Non-Formal Education in Tacloban has also identified Northern and Western Samar and Southern Leyte as the provinces with the "lowest in functional literacy."

Many of the residents in these provinces could not fully comprehend what's happening around them because of the lack of education, the department noted.

Teresita Malate, DECS Non-Formal Education regional director, said a majority of these residents only know how to read and write their own names.

But, she added, it is important that these residents know how to apply basic numerical skills including reading and comprehension.

"We should not stop here. We have to find a ways to sustain their learning capacity," she told the INQUIRER.

To help increase literacy rate in the region, the DECS has asked the Philippine Army to reactivate its program of providing non-formal education to the interior barangays to help those who could not go to school because of poverty.

Army help

The Army Literacy Patrol System (ALPS) was formed to provide basic literacy skills and continuing education to people in areas most likely threatened by insurgents and to help those who could not be reached by formal education.

Majority of its "clients" (instead of students, the Army called them clients) are adults with ages ranging from 16 to 69.

The 34th Infantry Battalion based in San Jorge Eastern Samar is the one in charge of the training for the six provinces in Eastern Visayas.

PRECINCT NO.
BARANGAY

VOTING has often become the function only of those who could read or write, but not if a literacy program in the Visayas could succeed in providing basic literacy skills to unschooled voters in poor Eastern Visayan areas.
FILE PHOTO

The clients will have to spend 200-hours in lectures to complete the course.

Since the clients spend their weekdays in the farms, the classes are usually held Saturday night and the whole day of Sunday inside the barangay hall.

To be able to communicate properly with the clients, the lectures are in the local dialect, which is Waray.

Lt. Caleb Gimoto, 34th Infantry Battalion Civil Military Officer and one of the trainors, said different strategies of teaching are being used in the ALPS.

Methods

These are the cartilla method (pronunciation of letters and words), whole sentence method (using complete sentences in teaching beginners) and word method (lessons are taught word for word).

Gimoto said they have been using the word method because it is proven to be effective in reaching out to their clients.

But he added that the ALPS teachers sometimes choose not to use the cartilla method because of the age of their clients.

Sometimes, Gimoto said, their clients were ashamed to participate in pronouncing words and letters especially when their children had joined them in the classes.

But eventually, he added, their clients would learn how to read through the cartilla method by familiarizing the alphabets in Pilipino.

The tricky part, Gimoto said, was when the teachers had to introduce a new set of difficult words or names, which were hard to read.

Since the ALPS was reactivated in 1996, at least 500 clients had graduated and were active participants in government livelihood projects in the Samar areas.

The ALPS landed fifth place in the National Literacy Award held last September in Aklan.

But a lot of things have to be done to be able to improve the literacy rate in Eastern Visayas.

Gimoto pointed out that many of their clients had opted to stop attending their classes because they had to work in their farm.

"Their priorities are to fill their stomach first. If they won't work, what else is there to sustain them?" Gimoto asked.

Among them was Mano Tino who was not able to finish the 200 hours required by the ALPS. He preferred to stay and work in his farm so he could be able to pay for his son's education.

Mano Tino does not want his son to be just like him—"no read, no write" and dependent on a guarantor when casting his vote.

A gift for Women's Month

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

IT IS women's month, and one woman was gifted with the mayor's post of Bacolod City. If some people's recollection is correct, Luzviminda "Joy" Santos-Valdez is not the first woman mayor of Bacolod City. The first was Nicolasa de la Pena. Even if this was true, Joy Valdez is still the first woman mayor of Bacolod at least in 50 years, and that is something. Whether she makes a difference for women is another question.

Who is Joy Valdez? She is a graduate of Silliman University, which celebrates its Centennial this year on Aug. 28. She was originally from Manila and married Art Valdez, now transportation undersecretary who is from Bacolod. For many years, Joy devoted her time and effort to the Volunteers for the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped and Disabled, a non-government organization recognized by the World Health Organization. She first joined politics as a councilor and then as vice mayor, with the help of former governor and former mayor Alfredo Montelibano Jr.

According to her friends, her best traits are her ability to listen, and decisiveness without being impulsive. For those who do not favor her, they think she lost a lot of points when she was too eager to take over Oscar Verdeflor's post when he had a stroke. Filipinos love an underdog and that was a mistake.

Six serious candidates including Valdez are running for mayor, including the former mayor, Verdeflor, who has renounced his American citizenship. The other contenders are former mayor Evelio Leonardia and former councilor Ramon Guanzon. With about 12 candidates, the next mayor of Bacolod could win by only a few hundred votes, so every vote will count.

There are several surveys going on in Bacolod now, presumably funded by politicians who want to know their chances. Verdeflor, although in a wheelchair, still leads the survey, while Valdez is in fourth place. If Oscar Verdeflor's character is so unforgettable it's because he is very casual and uses colorful language, a language the poor use and understand. He was a newsboy who sent himself to school. Never in the history of Bacolod has one from such a poor family ever made it as mayor, and so fish vendors, taxi drivers, stevedores and salesgirls look at Verdeflor as some sort of a hero.

In contrast, the poor cannot identify with Valdez, who acts well schooled. The progressive women cannot identify with her either, because they consider her work for women *hapaw* or superficial. This, although Valdez sponsored a project where 10 percent of the city scholarship fund in 1995 went to women, or about P400,000.

She also started the Women's Center being managed by the Dawn Foundation, her allies. But to women's rights activists, Valdez has not and does not stand out as a woman who protects and promotes the rights of women. She is not known as one who has stood against violence against women, promoted women's security of employment, and other gender issues. But with the other candidates being men, the women's agenda will have a better chance with Joy Valdez than the others.

Just a week or so in office as mayor, the people of Bacolod have not yet gotten used to the idea of Valdez being mayor. It is at this time when her accessibility will be crucial. She wants to do many good things, but if she can't start them, the people might not let her finish them.

She's got waste management in her list of top priorities, together with housing and resettlement for evicted squatters. She wants transparency and accountability in government transactions. But she did not mention her women's agenda, if she has one, even if it is Women's Month.

Joy Valdez got a gift this Women's Month. But whether or not she will be a gift to women remains to be seen.

My congratulations to Beth Angsioco, chair of the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP), for their successful conference in Kabankalan City last week.

Iloilo campaign forum for wild ideas

BY HAZEL VILLA

ILOILO CITY—"To solve the garbage problem, contractors should use garbage from the Calajunan dump . . . in filling up subdivision lots."

"All city hall employees should report to the plaza for a head count everyday so we will know who are engaged in 15-30."

These are but some of the novel ideas of independent Iloilo City mayoral candidates Carmelo "Mel" Carreon and Juanito Gaje aired during the Candidates' Forum hosted by the Iloilo Business Club last week at the Amigo Terrace Hotel here.

Gaje and Carreon sent the audience into fits of laughter and giggles and upstaged three other mayoral candidates—Jerry Trenas of Lakas-NUCD, former Rep. Rafael Lopez-Vito (Liberal Party) and incumbent Vice Mayor Guillermo de la Llana (Independent-Drilon Bloc).

The three-hour forum was covered live by this city's major radio and TV networks.

Gaje, 54, rendered unintelligible speeches in broken English because of a speech defect. A resident of Dungon B in Jaro District, he described himself as a college dropout, a former rebel and *pensionado*. He claimed that siblings abroad financially supported him.

Gaje often elicited gales of laughter from the audience composed of the business community, representatives of various sectors and supporters of other candidates.

Also present at the forum was incumbent Representative Gonzalez and candidates for vice mayor and city councilor from different parties.

Reporters could barely piece together Gaje's ideas on good governance but he made himself understood on his pronouncement that "*indi ako magbinastos sa peryodiko parehos bala kay* Lucio Tan and his companies (I will not be scandalous in the papers like Lucio Tan and his companies)."

Carreon, on the other hand, claimed to run under the "Lakas Loob Party" and "Kulba lang ang Capital Party." However, records at the city Comelec office showed that he filed his certificate as an independent candidate.

The 55-year-old insurance underwriter told his audience that former President Joseph Estrada was a "certified public scandal."

This, after he was asked the question, "Morality or lack of it hastened the fall of former President Estrada. Can you say with a straight face that if elected, you have the moral ascendancy to govern?"

Carreon is a perennial candidate in Iloilo City—having run as city councilor in 1992, vice mayor in 1995 and mayor in 1998. He never won in any of the elections but has turned into something of a city attraction as he is always seen in public areas wearing his vest with the words "Vote for Mel Carreon" printed on it and giving the sign of the cross to anyone who greeted him.

He also read out a list of people and agencies whom he claimed supported his bid for mayor. These were broadcaster Korina Sanchez, the Panay News, an association of underwriters, ABS-CBN and a host of other personalities and institutions.

The names, however, unintelligible because of the speed with which he delivers his speeches.

Both Gaje and Carreon told the INQUIRER they couldn't be classified as "nuisance candidates" because the Comelec has not received any complaint against them.

TV station IBC's emcees asked for written questions from the audience revolving on the major topics of good governance, service delivery and the environment. Each candidate was given five minutes to explain his platform of government.

Lopez-Vito batted for a "clean, peaceful and progressive Iloilo" while Trenas discussed "new politics based on platform."

De la Llana, 70, banked on his being a public servant who has never lost any election and pushed for "a local government that unites all sectors in transparency, sincerity and honesty."

Except for Carreon and Gaje, the three other candidates expressed their concern for Iloilo City's worsening woes and echoed each other's opinions on controlling traffic, housing for squatters, preventing floods, giving extra incentives for investors, improvement in the delivery of basic services and pushing for "transparency in local governance."

Members of Bayan who attended the forum said the level of politics in the city has moved toward highlighting issues instead of personalities but wished the candidates would give more attention to the urban poor.

"The weakness of the candidates is that they forgot to focus on the people, 70 percent of whom are urban poor. If there is no focus on them, then no big difference will be delivered. There were no specific answers on health and unemployment which is the perennial crisis of the urban poor," said Jeffrey Celiz, chair of Bayan-Iloilo.

Chato says Ramos gov't knew of Irene billions

(From page A1)

on Good Government in its own investigation into the alleged Marcos accounts in Switzerland, which are believed to include a $13.2-billion account in the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS).

"Yes, they (Philippine envoys) have contacted us," Johannes Mocken, spokesperson of the Public Prosecutors' Office in Dusseldorf, said in a phone interview.

But he said that his office had not given its evidence to the Philippine Embassy officials since the decision was in the hands of the German ministry.

"It's quite difficult. We can't (make the decision) ourselves. It is not so simple," he told the INQUIRER.

Mocken also said it was possible that the German investigation would lead to Swiss banks.

He said that although UBS had claimed that Araneta "did not have money in the bank," the Germans were still investigating and verifying the claim.

On secret service report

Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi first claimed that Irene had an account under client number 885931, under the name Sandy Anstalt. The account allegedly contained $13.2 billion as of June 1998.

According to him, some of the funds were later transferred to three banks in Liechtenstein, including the Verswaltungs-und Privatbank, which is headed by Hans Brunhart, former prime minister of Liechtenstein.

The German secret service, the BND, in a report in February 2000, identified five asset managers of the Marcos family who allegedly helped launder the UBS funds in Switzerland through Liechtenstein, a known money-laundering haven.

They are Dr. Herbert Batliner, Engelbert Schreiber, Peter G. Frommelt, Dr. Eugen Heeb and Rudolf Ritter.

The German government has stood by this BND report, according to David Chaikin, Jacobi's lawyer.

No check?

But in its investigation of the Marcoses last year, the Senate blue ribbon committee apparently made no effort to confirm this report with the German authorities, and merely relied on an answer from the PCGG saying that the report was false, according to Chaikin.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, recently denied this, and said that the committee did check with its own German sources but found nothing.

The response from then PCGG Chair Magdangal Elma cited a newspaper report on the results of an investigation by an Austrian special prosecutor into the alleged money-laundering attempt in Liechtenstein.

The article said the reports on "the alleged . . . funds belonging to former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos have proven to be mere false newspaper reports."

Give it another look

Pimentel decided that "with this information, I deem it no longer appropriate to proceed with the intended request to the German government."

Earlier, in a letter dated Oct. 18, 2000 to former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, he said that he was set to have a verification request to the German government "signed by the other senators to make it a collective official act of the Senate."

Pimentel claimed recently that the BND report was not true.

In a letter to Pimentel yesterday, Chaikin, an anti-money laundering expert, urged the Senate to review its stand in the light of the German intelligence agency's own backing of the report.

Chaikin testified in April last year on the BND report and the alleged laundering of the UBS funds into Liechtenstein by the five Marcos asset managers.

Erap warns of revolt . . .

(From page A1)

He noted that Estrada also called his former friend, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a liar when he exposed Estrada's involvement in "jueteng."

Luque said Estrada's "lying" backfired because Singson's testimony triggered widespread public indignation that led to his ouster.

Luque noted that the more Estrada lied, the more he put himself in trouble.

"Estrada should stop lying. He should instead be man enough to face mounting allegations heaped on him in court, not by merely dismissing these allegations as lies," Luque said.

The Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) challenged the Supreme Court to reverse its ruling stopping the Office of the Ombudsman from filing plunder and other criminal cases against Estrada until the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency was finally resolved.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto disclosed that more local banks had assured him that they would "produce" evidence showing that Estrada had engaged in money laundering to hide his alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Desierto told the INQUIRER that more bank officials were coming out in the open to help the Office of the Ombudsman in its investigation of the plunder and graft charges filed against Estrada.

At least two more banks will turn over to Desierto next week the bank records of the disgraced President, his mistresses and bank accounts of his cronies.

"The banks said they would be furnishing the Office of the Ombudsman with the statements of accounts of even those names associated with Estrada," Desierto said.

Bank of Commerce

The other banks led by Bank of Commerce were encouraged to cooperate with the Office of the Ombudsman after Allied Bank, owned by business tycoon Lucio Tan, Estrada's former close friend, finally agreed to turn over Estrada's bank records to Desierto.

Eleven banks have already complied with the subpoena duces tecum, which Desierto issued last month to allow his office to examine the bank records.

Desierto said the records would be used as evidence in the complaint for forfeiture on Estrada's assets, estimated to be at least P20 billion.

Initial documents submitted by Allied Bank president Peter Favila and executive officer Reynaldo Maclang to Desierto showed that Jose Velarde, one of Estrada's alleged assumed names, had a $3-million account with the bank.

Another numbered account under the name Kelvin Garcia, also one of Estrada's alleged aliases, is still active.

"On Monday, Allied Bank will turn over all the statements of accounts of Estrada and his cronies. By the time, we will know how much money he deposited into his accounts with the bank," Desierto said.

Desierto said that the Ombudsman special preliminary investigation panel was tracing the movement of Estrada's money, believed stashed in several banks across the country.

"The panel wants to know exactly where the money was deposited or invested," said Desierto after his office stumbled upon a piece of evidence showing that Estrada could have invested some of his money in top companies of his cronies.

The special panel believes that Jose Velarde, who owned the controversial P3.3-billion account with the Equitable PCI Bank, was none other than the deposed President.

Fair trial

But while he said he would refute all the charges against him, Estrada believed that he had already been convicted in the media.

"I hope I can get a fair trial. But I think I have been convicted through publicity. How can I get justice from our courts if I have already been judged?" he said in Filipino.

Before a crowd of around 2,500, Estrada spent almost an hour lashing out at his political enemies and at the rich who, he said, orchestrated his ouster.

The opposition senatorial ticket continued its foray into known bailiwicks of the administration by going to Bulacan Thursday.

Former BIR chief asks Sandigan . . .

(From page A1)

charge that he had given San Miguel "unwarranted advantage, preference and benefit" with his "unusual efficiency" in ordering the review and examination of the tax case.

On March 2, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Rodolfo G. Palatao, Associate Justices Narciso S. Nario and Nicodemo T. Ferrer ruled that Tan gave San Miguel "unwarranted advantage, preference and benefit" when Tan allowed the compromise deal.

The Sandiganbayan also ordered the BIR to collect from San Miguel P292.951 million in tax liabilities from Jan. 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986.

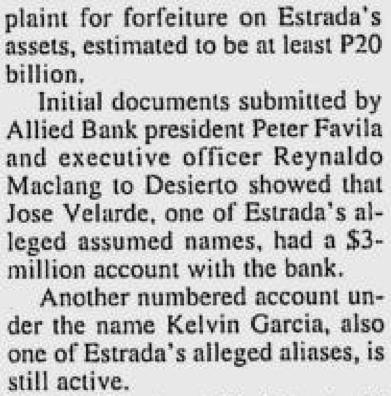
Tan said the amount of P10 million was "a matter of study and reinvestigation" that even took the BIR 32 months to finish.

He said no less than six BIR officials on nine occasions had submitted their respective assessments of San Miguel's tax deficiency.

From these separate recommendations, San Miguel's tax deficiency ranged from P10 million to P320.730 million.

"It is fair to ask then 'why the lowest figure was decided upon?'" Tan asked.

He said he based his decision on the findings of Juanito Urbi, chief of the BIR prosecution division;



TAN: Expressions of support pour in

Assistant Commissioner Jaime Maza and Alicia P. Clemeno, chief of the BIR legislative ruling and research division.

"Clemeno, Urbi and Maza (found) that there was full payment of the specific tax and that the ad valorem tax assessment was unjust and unreasonable and therefore suffered from reasonable doubt," Tan said in his motion.

Tan's lawyer maintained that Tan referred the matter to Maza and other officers for study because of the protest and request of San Miguel.

Even without the request, it was part of Tan's duty as commissioner to collect the correct tax, Tan's lawyer said.

Tan asked why it was only he was charged while Clemeno, Urbi and Maza and San Miguel officials Nazario L. Avendaño and Jaime J. de la Cruz, who were among those originally accused, were dropped from the complaint.

He also asked why his decision to approve a legal study, which was undertaken by the other co-accused BIR officials, was considered a criminal act if the Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan had found that there was no conspiracy, bribery or material benefit involved.

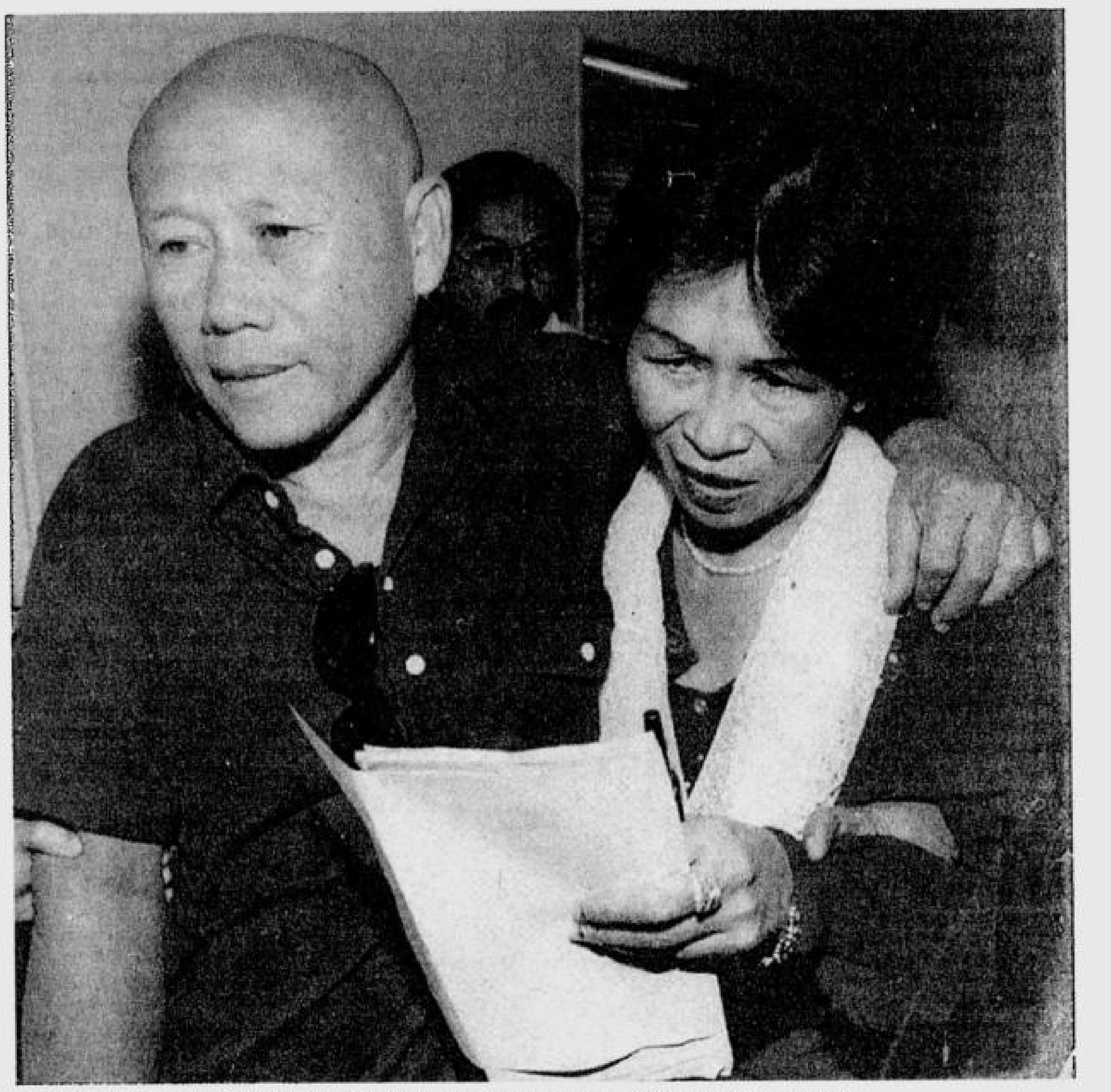
The motion also took exception to the "tone of the (Sandiganbayan) decision."

Tan said the Sandiganbayan had used quotes that indicated "an unusual bias against the accused."

The Sandiganbayan could have imposed a stiffer penalty on Tan. But because he is already 78 years old—age is considered a mitigating circumstance—the court imposed a term under the Indeterminate Sentence Law.

The anti-graft court meted out Tan a minimum of six years and one month and a maximum of 15 years.

Tan's conviction has drawn an outpouring of sympathy for the 78-year-old former ambassador to the Vatican.



MANERO with common-law wife, Julie Yee, after the revocation of his pardon last year.

Manero hunted; escape probed

(From page A1)

verify tips that Manero was deliberately let loose to sow terror during the election period.

He also ordered the NBI to investigate the possibility that Manero escaped in cahoots with jail personnel.

Mendoza assigned the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), led by Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, to the separate police investigation, directing him to exhaust all means in pinning down those who may have helped Manero escape.

"The Manero escape is not within the jurisdiction of the DOJ because it happened at a local jail, a provincial jail," Perez said.

'Thorough' probe

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said he had "asked Mendoza to launch a manhunt to get Manero back," adding that a "thorough investigation" was underway.

But, like Perez, Lina did not seem to want to assume jurisdiction over the matter, stressing that the escape was a police problem.

The Sarangani jail, however, is under the direct supervision of the provincial government and not of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The guard on duty did not check the trunk when Manero's wife Julie Yee left the jail after a conjugal visit.

A report by the Radio Mindanao Network said Manero's wife denied any involvement in the escape and is helping authorities look for him.

MILF ready

The MILF volunteered to help recapture Manero, alias Kumander Bucay, who headed a dreaded militia group in the '80s targeting Moro and communist rebels.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the MILF, if asked by the government, would "hold" Manero and his companions "if they entered MILF territories."

"This is voluntary on our part," Kabalu told radio station dxMS in Cotabato City.

"If Manero comes into the custody of the MILF, we can hand him over to the government as part of our confidence-building measures" between the rebels and the government, he added.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division has also dispatched a team of plainclothesmen to help the police in tracking down Manero.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th ID spokesperson, said the unit's two Huey helicopters have also been dispatched to South Cotabato and Sarangani to provide air support for pursuing lawmen.

Ando also appealed to civilians to report any sightings of Manero "so that we can act accordingly."

Firearms

The 20-year-old probationer said policemen sent to augment the force in the provincial jail would leave their firearms with Manero when they were off-duty.

Aside from carrying firearms, Manero was also allegedly allowed to carry a hand grenade, the probationer claimed.

But Manuel Sales Jr., the acting provincial jail warden, dismissed as baseless the claim that Manero was allowed to carry firearms in jail.

In an interview aired over a local television station, the probationer also disclosed that Manero had threatened to kill provincial prosecutor Laureano Alzate and Regional Trial Court Branch 38 Judge Jaime Infante.

The probationer said Manero was furious at the postponement of the hearing of his case.

Security at the RTC Branch 38 in Sarangani has been tightened.

Alzate was on leave and could not be contacted for comment, while Infante was not available for an interview.

Manero's lawyer, Tomas Falgui III, said Manero was restless and "emotionally depressed" after the March 16 hearing of his case was postponed to May 7. He said Manero was expecting the dismissal of his case after the prosecution's principal witness recanted testimony that she had seen Manero kidnap the victims.

Own quarters

The probationer also noted that Manero had been allowed to construct his own separate quarters on the jail's rooftop.

But Falgui denied the allegation that Manero had received VIP treatment.

He said the construction of separate quarters for Manero was due to the threats on his life.

He said that they had received verified reports that there were armed groups planning to snatch Manero from jail to try him in kangaroo courts for his alleged public crimes.

The lawyer said Manero was worried about his safety and had requested for a transfer to the Davao Penal Colony.

Sales, the acting warden, said the separate quarters for Manero were necessary so that other inmates would not be in danger in case the threats were real.

Sales cited casualties and damage to jail property incurred when notorious kidnap-for-ransom gang leader Tahir Alonto was rescued by his comrades inside the General Santos City Jail in November last year.

Appeal

Falgui said he was closely coordinating with Manero's relatives to discover the exact whereabouts of his client, and appealed to Manero to surrender so as not to aggravate his case.

Interior Secretary Lina said that by escaping, Manero risked facing other charges.

Thursday's escape was Manero's second prison escape since he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1985 murder of Italian missionary Fr. Tullio Favali in Tulunan, North Cotabato.

Witnesses said the killers splattered the priest's brain around his body and some reports said they ate bits of the brain. The brutal murder was one of the most strongly condemned crimes during the administration of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

While serving his sentence, Manero was moved to the Davao Penal Colony in the early 1990s, when he escaped, allegedly with the help of police officials.

He was recaptured and sent to the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

His life sentence was reduced to 24 years by former President Fidel Ramos.

He was pardoned by Joseph Estrada in 1999 in a move that sparked widespread outrage. Estrada was later forced to revoke the pardon.

Manero was re-arrested on the grounds he faced charges of kidnapping and killing brothers Mambatawan and Ali Mamalumpong in 1977.

Manero and his elder brother Artemio, his former wife Leonarda Lacson, Job Tolentino and Larry Gonzaga are charged with the kidnapping and murder of the Mamalumpong brothers.

Old targets

In Kidapawan City, Fr. Peter Geremia, the original target of Manero's gang when it killed Favali in 1985, said the escape showed "that there are still powerful and influential people supporting Manero" in the military.

"Maybe he is afraid that the Macapagal government will not grant his pardon and that's why he granted himself a speedy and easy release," he said.

Geremia asked authorities to investigate Manero's common-law wife, Yee, who was also allegedly behind the decision of witness Johana Mamalumpong, sister of the murdered brothers, to retract her testimony.

"She (Yee) is also the one who has been doing all the maneuvering and manipulation just to free Manero," he said.

Geremia said that he has been receiving threat letters since last October. "Is there any connection between these threats to this escape of Manero?" he wondered.

"It is very unfortunate and untimely," said Favali lawyer Gregorio Andolana, who shared Geremia's concerns.

Andolana said Manero's escape would terrorize all the witnesses of the Favali case including the people who helped in the prosecution of the case.

"Those who know them will surely shiver at the thought of what this group is capable of doing," he said.

He said the escape of Manero would impact significantly on the peace process being pushed by the government.

"This will jeopardize the peace process because the incident will shatter the trust of the people in our justice system," he said, adding that Manero is a central figure among the area's fanatical groups.

Harmful for healing

In Davao City, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman warned that Manero's escape might affect the ongoing rehabilitation and "healing" efforts in areas hit by the government's all-out-war campaign last year.

Soliman said that Manero could be used by certain interest groups to organize "militia-type" groups to harm the ongoing peace process with the MILF.

Soliman said it would not be difficult for Manero to organize "anti-Moro" militias and feed on anti-Muslim prejudices prevailing in some areas in Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, where he and his armed band operated before his arrest in the 1980s.

Soliman also said Manero's escape could discourage thousands of remaining evacuees in both the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Central Mindanao from returning to their homes if they see signs of Christian militias re-organizing.

In Manila, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption joined cause-oriented groups in blaming prison authorities.

The report that Manero had escaped because the guards had not bothered checking the trunk of the car was "dubious and almost fantastic," VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez said.

"There is a strong suspicion that Manero's escape was done in connivance with authority and money could have changed hands in order to implement the escape plan," Jimenez said.

With reports from Jowel F. Canuday, George F. Vigo, Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio, Jerome Aning, Rocky Nazareno, Dave Veridiano; AP, AFP

ERICSSON-SMART ZED

Gibson shoots 69, ahead by 2 shots

By Jong Arcano

FOR the past three tournaments, Canadian Rick Gibson forced the local pros to keep up with his high-caliber form. And for a certified hotshot who just went through the worst stage of his career, it was a role he had to play—gladly.

Gibson remained the big headache that he has become, gunning down a three-under-par 69 in the second round of the P700,000 Ericsson-Smart Zed Classic for a two-shot lead at Sherwood Hills.

Despite two poor bunker plays that gave him two bogeys, Gibson—who had gone second, fourth and first in the last three events he played—scored back-to-back birdies from the 14th to finish 36 holes at 137, seven under par.

Even Cassius Casas' best round so far this season—a seven-under 67—could not shake Gibson off the leaderboard as the Canadian countered with his 10th under-par score in 12 rounds this year.

Casas had no bogeys and picked up seven birdies but could only join Robert Pactolerin, who carded a 69, in second place at 139 on another day the field had to endure the blazing early summer heat.

Taking the cue from Gibson, Danny Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello again ended up with identical scores for the second straight day of 69s for 141, just a stroke behind unheralded Lito Rempojo who found himself in the elite company of favorites after shooting a 69 for 140.

The battle for the P100,000 top prize in the tourney presented by College Assurance Plan, La Paz Holdings & Dev't Corp., Metro Rail Transit Corp. and the Fil-Estate Group of Companies remained wide open with Ruben Sasutil (71-142) and Antonio Lascuna (70-143) not too far behind.

Roger Antonio won the CAP Senior Challenge for the second time in three legs while the team of Anthony Balan and Ed Camacho topped the pro-am side-event with a net 123 aggregate.

The two-day pro-am, which played no shorter than six hours, seemed to have told on Gibson.

Que, Chua prevail

ANGELO Que cruised to a four-stroke victory in the men's championship division despite a six-over-par 78 yesterday even as Heidi Chua clinched the ladies class in the second leg of the Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit at the Valley Golf and Country Club.

Que held on the lead all the way to the finish as Boey Zaragosa could only match his 78. They wound up with 299 and 303 totals, respectively, with Juvic Pagunsan claiming solo third place at 304 after a 75.

Chua rode a 79 to nip Carmelette Villaroman by two strokes for the ladies crown in the four-day event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines for the sponsoring Titleist and Footjoy.

Delasin just 3 off leaders

DOROTHY Joy Delasin shot her way into contention with a one-over-par 73 and started just three strokes behind the five leaders in the $1 million Nabisco Championships, the first major event of the LPGA.

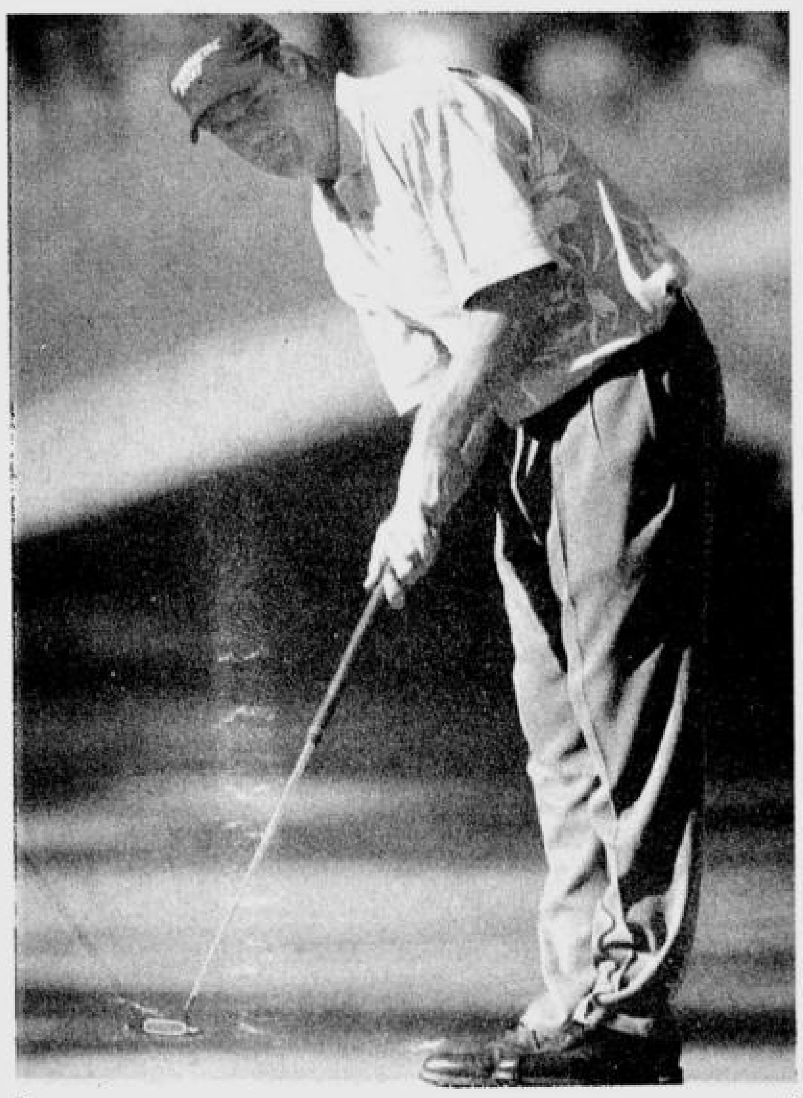
Delasin, 20, survived a wild back nine where she lapsed with four bogeys to join a big group tied for 23rd that also included Karrie Webb and Se Ri Pak.

Penny Hammel, Liselotte Neumann, Karin Koch, Pat Hurst and Juli Inkster all tallied 70s at the Mission Hills Country Club Dinah Shore course in Rancho Mirage, California.

Annika Sorenstam, the first woman to shoot a 59, shot 72.

Delasin was already one under after nine holes with a lone birdie on the sixth hole. But she had a 38 coming home as the field struggled under the tough conditions.

Jennifer Rosales, the other Filipino campaigner in the LPGA, was not in the cast after failing to secure an invitation to the event.



AZINGER: Surprise leader on a day when David Duval withdrew due to a wrist injury. AP

Azinger leads with 66; Woods 6 behind

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida - Paul Azinger finally found The Players Championship to his liking yesterday, thanks to a relatively soft Stadium Course, a one-stroke lead and his best score at Sawgrass in 49 rounds.

Azinger started with three consecutive birdies, had a similar stretch in the middle of his round, and kept it straight and simple down the stretch for a 6-under 66 and the lead over Vijay Singh, Scott Hoch and Jonathan Kaye.

"When the greens hold, it's a manageable golf course," Azinger said.

Not everyone felt that way.

Tiger Woods said he hit only a couple of bad shots but signed for a 72, the 10th time in 17 career rounds in the tournament that he has failed to break par. One of those shots was his 3-wood on No. 18 that hooked into the water and led to a double bogey.

"I didn't get a whole lot out of the round," Woods said. "I only hit two or three bad shots all day, which in these conditions is pretty good. The golf course is going to keep playing harder and harder as the week goes on."

David Duval was spared the misery. Suffering from tendinitis in his right wrist, Duval withdrew from the championship that he won two years ago, and there are no guarantees his wrist will be healthy for the Masters in two weeks.

Even with greens that allowed certain pins to be attacked, the Stadium Course is no push-over. The average score was 73.37, the highest first-round scoring on the PGA Tour this year.

With no rain in the immediate forecast, the conditions will only get firmer and faster the rest of the week. Just how hard it gets for Azinger's liking depends on whether he's around to collect the $ 1,080,000 check at the end of the week. *AP*

Alaxan village golf April 4

GOLFING villages in the metropolis have been invited to join the popular Intervillage golf series which kicks off its 10th season on April 4 at the fabled east course of Wack Wack, with Alaxan as title sponsor.

Organizers of the event said 40 residential village teams have so far confirmed their participation although the list may swell to 45 or 50 depending on the number of teams to be accepted in the annual golf series launched in 1991 to promote fellowship among village golfers.

Interested villages are requested to contact Videocom at tel. no. 844-6515/16 for details.

Unlike in the past staging of the event where a number of golf courses were tapped as venues of the series, only three courses—Wack Wack in Mandaluyong, Valley Golf in Antipolo and the Riviera in Cavite—will be tapped this year.

To further stir up interest in the series supported by BJ Marthel International, Mastercard, PinoyAuctions, ICTSI, STI Computer College, Callaway, Odyssey, Macallan Whisky, Pisanti golfwear and Menzi and Co., it will have its kick-off rites at Wack Wack, venue of this year's Philippine Open.

The Intervillage's first tournament was held in 1991.

Now billed as the Alaxan Intervillage golf series, the event will have four 36-hole elimination rounds where the field will be divided into four groups. The top three finishers in each division will gain berths in the Alaxan Grand Intervillage Championship slated in November.

Asia's best join Nestea volley

THE BEST Asian beach volley spikers cross paths when the Second Nestea Beach Volley Asian Women's Championships gets under way from March 30-April 1 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Spikers from Asian powerhouse teams such as Australia, China, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Thailand and the Philippines are expected to clash for beach volley supremacy in the region.

Bangkok Asian Games titlist Thailand and bronze medalist Japan are anticipated to turn in strong performances while China, considered a world superpower in indoor volleyball, gives its opponents a run for their money.

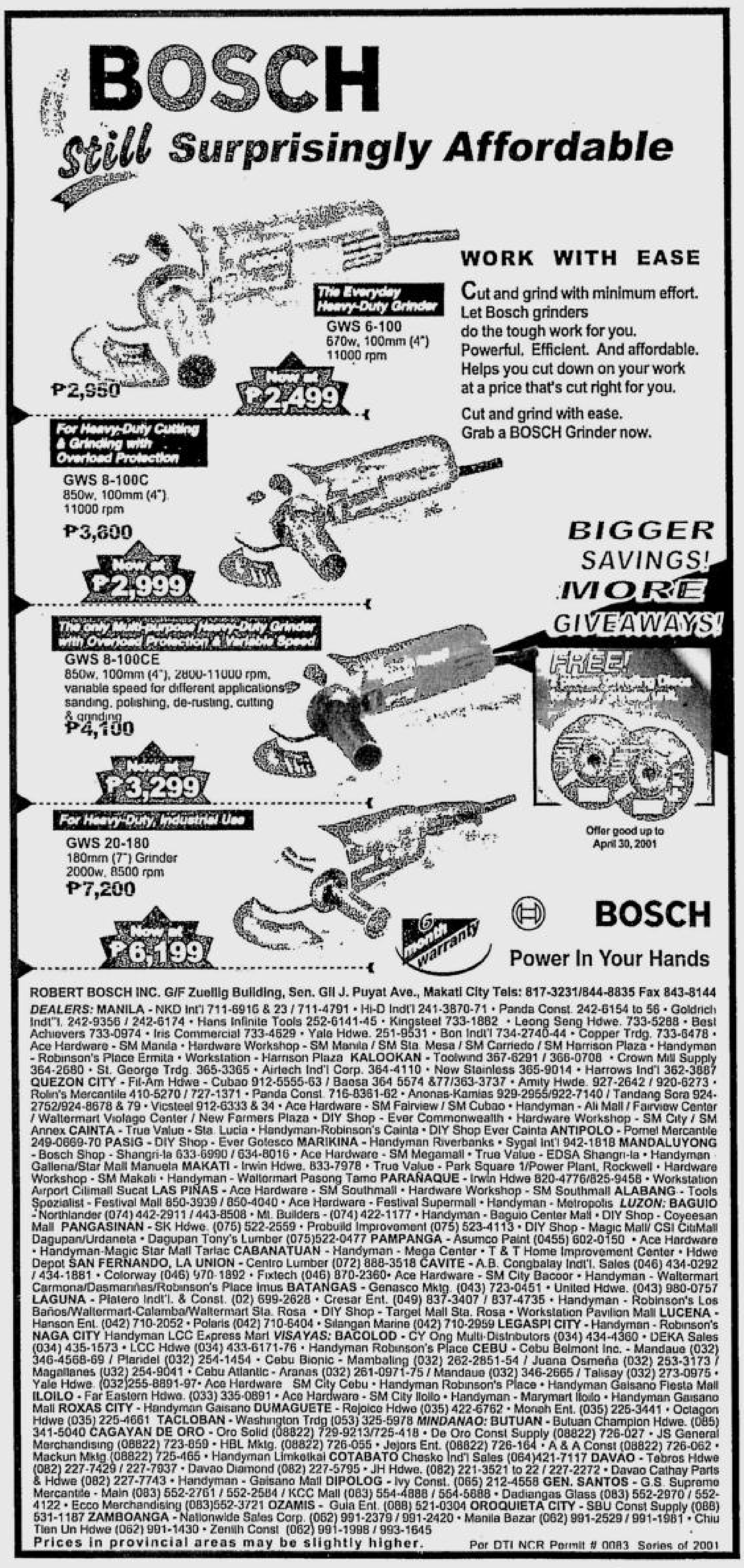
New Zealand's Lucy Todd and Summer Lochowicz of Australia will make a big comeback after a losing effort during last year's maiden edition of the tournament.

Philippine Navy's Joan Botor and Helen Dosdos, who made waves in the recently concluded First Nestea Beach Volley National Open, will banner the country's campaign in the tournament.

As hosts, the Philippines is entitled to send two teams in the 9-nation meet, a right given to San Sebastian College's Sheryl Tumayao and Jennifer Buhawe, who topped last year's inter-college beach volley circuit.

The Asian Women's Championships is the third tournament of the Nestea Beach Volley Series. It followed the recently concluded 5th Nestea Beach Volley University Challenge and the First Nestea Beach Volley National Open.

Over a hundred collegiate teams competed in the university challenge while 26 amateur and professional beach volleyball teams slugged it out for the national open title



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Per DTI NCR Permit # 0083 Series of 2001

3 GMs in Chess Open

BIG-TIME chess returns as the National Open Chess championships begin today at the Greenhills Shopping Centermall in San Juan with close to 400 woodpushers seeing action.

The cream of the country's chess led by Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, the defending champion, and Bong Villamayor will pit their wits and skills over the next two weeks in the event organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines

Top sports personalities have been invited to simple opening ceremonies ushering in the tournament at 1 p.m.

Heading the guest list is Maite Defensor, representing her father and NCFP project director Mat Defensor, who will be the National Open's keynote speaker.

Also invited to the rites are Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, POC second vice president Claudio Altura, Commissioner William Ramirez of the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Chess Society vice chair Horace Templo and Ortigas and Company Chess Club chair Eulogio Rodriguez.

"We expect very interesting and exciting games ahead in the National Open. Hopefully, the event will also allow us to discover new faces," Torre, NCFP president, said.

A total of P750,000 is up for grabs in the men's and women's competitions of this tourney also meant as the qualifying event for the Philippine team that will compete in the Asian Zonals in Manila firing off on April 23.

Motocross roars off today

INDIVIDUAL and team rivalries will be accentuated anew in the second leg of the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of PLDT in Fort Bonifacio starting at 9 a.m. today.

Glen Aguilar, who swept the pro categories in the kickoff leg on March 3, and Irwin Uypitching, who dominated the expert class stake the lead in this prestigious series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

Aguilar will be challenged anew in the pro open and pro 125 categories by guest rider Attila Szerda of Australia, seven-time champion Jovie Saulog and the Shell-Yamaha trio of Ernie Leongson, Jing Leongson and Weng Yapparcon.

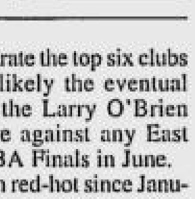
Uypitching will be tested again by Pepo Rubi, Alvin Beech, Johnny Garcia and Junjun San Andres.

Shell-Yamaha and Caltex Revtex-KTM, the two most dominant teams in the opening leg, will also try to outdo each other again in terms of victories by their riders.

Wild and wooly affair

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



WITH MVP frontrunner Allen Iverson and his coach Larry Brown sidelined by health woes, the Philadelphia 76ers (48-20), who have owned the best record in the NBA for most of the season, enter today's game at Phoenix with a four-game losing streak. The string of setback has transformed the race for the league's top overall mark—the reward of which is homecourt advantage throughout the four-tier playoffs—into a wild and wooly affair.

Chief beneficiaries of the 76ers' late-season nosedive are the powerhouse dinosaurs from the Western Conference, spearheaded by the San Antonio Spurs (48-20), who were looking to move past Philly in yesterday's road sortie against Atlanta.

No question about it. The balance of power remains tilted toward the West. Unlike the East, where the Sixers have a solid claim to leadership, the deep, deep West is still up for grabs with around 12-15 games left.

Only five games separate the top six clubs in the West. And it's likely the eventual pacesetter will secure the Larry O'Brien championship hardware against any East representative to the NBA Finals in June.

San Antonio has been red-hot since January 23, going 25-5 in its last 30 assignments. With All-Star forward Tim Duncan elevating his game by several notches, the Spurs carved out victories in their first nine game sin March and are 11-1 overall for the month so far. The Alamo City squad, which annexed the NBA title during the lockout-shortened 1999 wars, is the only NBA team to put together two winning streak of eight games or more this season.

The Utah Jazz, at 46-20, trailed the Spurs by just one game going into their home encounter with slumping Portland yesterday and could yet pry the Midwest Division flag away from San Antonio and even secure the NBA's best record. The two clubs meet in a crucial encounter on March 29 in San Antonio.

Out West, the Sacramento Kings (45-21) went into yesterday's homeouting against lottery-bound Detroit with a one-game lead (two in the loss column) over the reigning NBA champion LA Lakers (45-23), who aim to snap a two-game losing streak (losses at Atlanta and Milwaukee) today against visiting Washington, in the Pacific Division.

NBA RESULTS

San Antonio 115, Atlanta 101; Cleveland 109, Vancouver 95; Boston 113, New Jersey 98; Portland 101, Utah 99; Phoenix 91, Seattle 88; Sacramento 103, Detroit 98; LA Clippers 97, Houston 92. *AP*

Bata vs The Pearl slated

FIVE-TIME world 9-Ball champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland arrives on Monday for his much-awaited return battle with "The Magician" Efren "Bata" Reyes in "The Color of Money Part II" at the Casino Filipino, Parañaque. The match beginning on March 28 will be a race to 33 over three sessions. On March 29, it will be a race-to-11 starting at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Arcilla wins

JOSEPH Arcilla ousted top seed Johan Guba, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, yesterday to advance in the boys' 18-under semifinals of the Philta Junior Tennis Classic 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Meanwhile, registration for the second Juntaphil-Los Baños Junior Tennis Championships ends at noon today at the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta) offices.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: 2001 NCAA Men's Tournament, South Regional Semifinal at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Midwest Regional Semifinal at 8:30 p.m., East Regional Final tomorrow at 5:30 a.m. on Star Sports

NBA Action at 9:30 a .m. (r –7:30 p.m.) on ESPN

Shark, Welcoat resume epic rivalry

BY DENNIS U. EROA

2 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
4 p.m.—Shark vs Welcoat

DEFENDING champion Welcoat unveils two promising recruits from the UAAP and a comebacking player as it collides with Shark Energy Drink today in the opener of the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Six-foot-three Melvin Mamaclay of Adamson and 6-foot-5 Michael Tolentino of FEU get their baptism of fire as the Paintmasters meet the Power Boosters at 4 p.m.

New showbiz siren Rica Paralejo and Mo Twister will emcee a glittery opening ceremonies at 2 p.m. PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad and Chair Dioceldo Sy will also unveil the new PBL logo.

The presence of Mamaclay and Tolentino will add depth to Welcoat's deadly half-court game. And with the presence of former Chowking swingman Brix Encarnacion and sharpshooter Ren Ren Ritualo, the Paintmasters are assured of a double-barreled offensive.

Still in cloud nine after staging the smashingly successful Challenge Cup won by Shark, the league expects another blockbuster with the presence of ex-pros and new recruits.

"From the looks of it, the PBL is headed for another banner conference," said Sy. "The race to the finals is tighter than ever with the presence of a well-balanced field."

Shark lost some of its bite after Roger Yap joined the PBA. But the Power Boosters are raring to make a successful followup to their unforgettable Challenge Cup triumph.

Welcoat mentor Junel Baculi said his team is stronger with the presence of the new recruits.

Shell trips Pop Cola

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GAME TODAY (Malolos, Bulacan)
5 p.m.—Red Bull vs Sta. Lucia

VERGEL Meneses drilled in a three-pointer in the final minute as Barangay Ginebra eked out a 77-70 win over Mobiline last night in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

In the second game, Gerry Esplana slashed through a tight defense for a layup in the last two seconds as Shell Velocity defeated Pop Cola, 81-79, to take the solo top spot at 8-3. Pop Cola slipped to 5-5.

The win was a fitting welcome for team consultant Ron Jacobs, who reported back to the Ginebra bench after almost two months of absence.

Jacobs was at his usual self, shouting instructions, protesting calls and openly showing his disgust over lousy plays to egg on the Gin Kings to their sixth win in 11 games.

With his arrival, coach Allan Caidic was again relegated to the sidelines. But he seemed not to mind. He said the American coach has been involved with the team all this time.

"It helped a lot of course (Jacobs' presence) because we won," said Caidic, his voice hoarse although it was Jacobs who kept on shouting during the game.

Sources said Jacobs never left town but simply withdrew after he got involved in an internal squabble within the Ginebra-San Miguel camp.

"What more can I say? He's back!" Caidic said.

Ironically, until in the final few minutes, Jacobs' presence was hardly felt as the depleted Phone Pals (who fell 5-6) gave the Gin Kings one tough fight.

In fact, the Gins couldn't get their lead to double-digit and even allowed the Phone Pals—playing without Gherome Ejercito and Vic Pablo—to tie the game.

Mobiline threatened at 71-68, but Meneses hit the triple right in front of Don Camaso as Ginebra sped away beyond recall in the face of the Phone Pals' gruesome shooting that saw them miss at least 10 successive attempts afterward.

SCORES

GINEBRA 77—Meneses 17, Limpot 17, Caguioa 13, Crisano 11, David 7, Helterbrand 6, Magtulis 6, Calpito 0, Ong 0.

MOBILINE 70—Camaso 25, Codiñera 12, Gonzalez 12, Fran 10, Ravena 9, Demape 2, Cul 0, Babilonia 0.

Quarters: 20-18, 39-36, 58-54, 77-70.

'Bitaw' derby on

COCKING stars from Laguna, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Quezon, Bulacan and Metro Manila parade their finest feathered aces tonight as the opening round of the Bitaw-bitawan Super 4-Cock Derby reels off starting at 4 p.m. at Roligon.

Hosted by highly respected pit operator Ka Soseng Gotengco of Cabuyao, the four-day encounter is a fitting sequel to last month's record-breaking Super Karambola derby hosted by Lando Santos Luzong of Marikina, who is also assisting Gotengco in this project.

Up for grabs is a guaranteed cash prize of P1 million for a low entry fee of P5,500. Minimum bet is pegged at only P2,200.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Poblacion 2. Test Run 3. Timber Nectar 4. Poblacion
Race 2—1. Vibrant Amazon 2. Snake King 3. All Powerful 4. Gallop for Gold 5. Beauty and Grace
Race 3—1. Silver Rose 2. Classic Star 3. Sweep Away 4. Palaban 5. Seiko Shita
Race 4—1. Sukiyaki Blues 2. Virtual Reality 3. Holy Folly/Two Thumbs Up 4. Burning Heart 5. Rock's Dragon
Race 5—1. Mr. Purao 2. Sweet Lover 3. Bumper to Bumper 4. Play By Ear 5. En Carta
Race 6—1. Make Your Mark 2. Pasikatera 3. Rainmaker 4. Lovely Luigi 5. Guts Pleaser
Race 7—1. Silver Story 2. Bound to Be 3. High Roller 4. Sonata
Race 8—1. El Condor 2. Tumataginting 3. Dressed to Impress 4. Bulwak 5. Typhoon Belle
Race 9—1. Better Harry 2. Mr. Positive 3. Bravada 4. Lady Queen
Race 10—1. Dynasty 2. Free Entrance 3. Heir Apparent 4. Time Street 5. Memorabilia
Race 11—1. Free Magic 2. Unsalagi/Gambatte 3. Cubano 4. Snake Dancer 5. Photogenic
Race 12—1. Materiales Fuertes 2. Heavenly 3. Speed Goddess 4. Free Bee 5. Rpertoire
Race 13—1. Little Voices 2. Maddm Victoria 3. Join the Fun 4. Nevada Dancer 5. Silver Flyer

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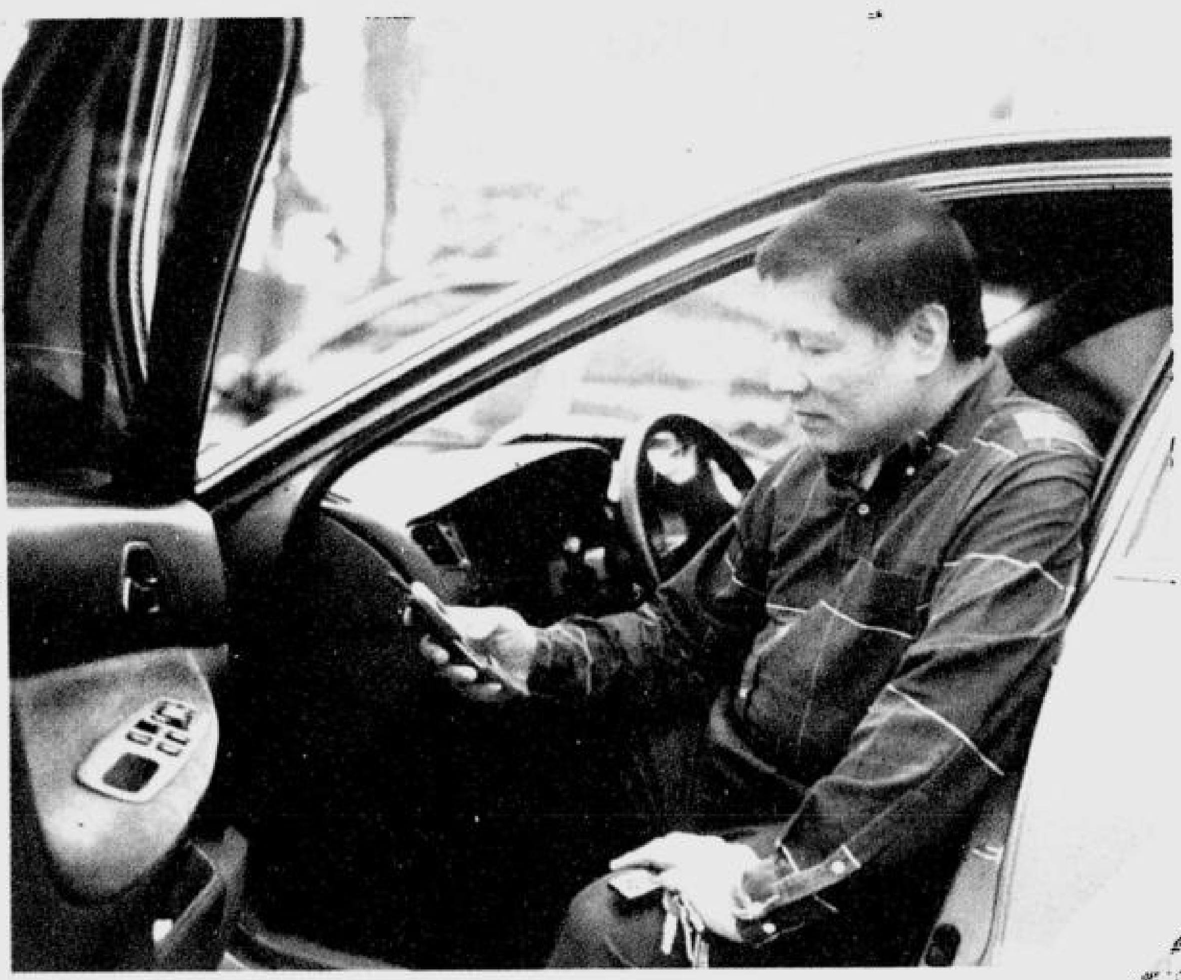

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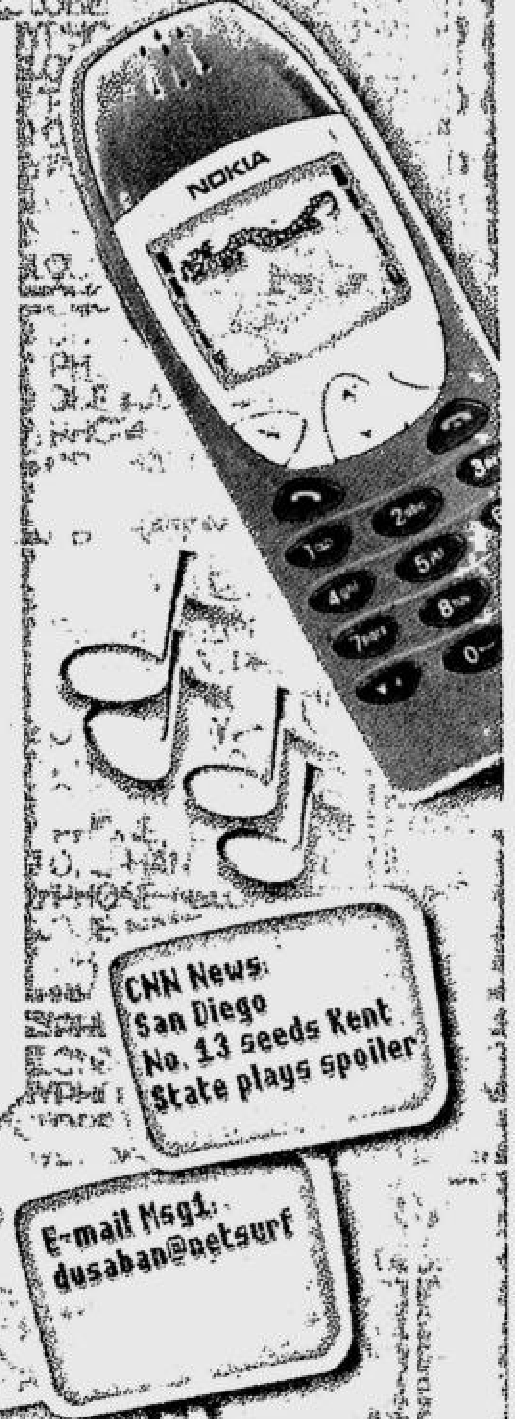

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Gaine Dusaban is perpetually on the move. "My regular schedule involves being in the office only on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the rest of the week on field to visit our key dealers nationwide. Occasionally, I also report to our main office in Singapore," he discloses.

Gaine started to depend on his Globe Handyphone back in 1997 when he was tapped as the national key accounts manager in this company. He shares, "My objective then is to control the sales group. I know that to achieve this, we have to be in constant communication with each other. After asking around, I found out Globe can help me achieve this goal since it offers good coverage and very reasonable rates—especially when calling Globe-to-Globe. I knew then we should stay with this one network!"

For a seemingly serious businessman, it is interesting to note that Gaine had personalized the Globe Handyphone clipped on to his belt with a funky dragon logo, "I was born in the year of the dragon. And my ringtone, the theme from *The Lion King*, is because I'm a Leo," he shares candidly.

"I'd sooner leave my driver's license than leave my house without my Globe. It helps me when I'm on the road as I access traffic reports and even CNN headlines. In fact, I'm going to start e-mailing my staff via my Globe as soon as I get my laptop readied. It's a beauty to be able to do my work wherever I am. Even when I'm abroad, I feel like I'm still here! And the best thing about it is, it makes me available to my boss anywhere—it can't happen that I can't be reached!" he adds.

Having established a career in sales, Gaine is very particular with customer service. "I admire the way Globe takes customers' problems seriously. If a member of the staff loses a phone or needs a new SIM, a replacement, a new one is delivered right away." He concludes, "*Ibang klase talaga ang* Globe!"

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL Page A21

Voter's Voice 2001 Page A25

Malabon squatters threaten to depose Mayor Vicencio

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

WILL there be "Edsa III" in Malabon?

If the town's squatters would be believed, Mayor Amado Vicencio would be facing ouster via people power, similar to the one that unseated President Joseph Estrada in January.

Around 18,000 squatters vowed to pressure Vicencio into resigning through massive protest actions if he failed to resolve the town's problem on demolitions.

"We vow to do another Edsa if only to prevent Vicencio from abusing the squatters while making it appear he's innocent," squatters groups' head Eddie Bercilla warned on Thursday.

If they failed to oust Vicencio, who is a known Estrada ally, the squatters said the mayor would surely lose over 18,000 votes in his reelection bid.

"Erap and Vicencio are not different," Bercilla said. "Erap's Malacañang still stands in Malabon."

He said Vicencio has consistently failed to fulfill his promises to improve the squatters' condition so he no longer deserves to be mayor.

Vicencio's spokesperson, Abby Balatbat, said the protests were politically motivated.

"*Sa totoo lang, tinutulungan na sila ni* Mayor *tapos ginaganyan pa nila siya*," he said. "*Lahat ng tulong ibinigay na sa kanila. Nagpapaagamit na yata sila sa mga pulitiko mula sa kabila.*"

The squatters blamed Vicencio for the series of

MALABON/ A22

Cops drop kidnap-for-ransom angle in UST student's slay

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA police are now certain that University of Santo Tomas student Mark Chua, whose body was fished out of the Pasig River on Sunday, did not die in the hands of a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Chua, 19, a second year mechanical engineering student and resident of LPL Mansions on Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, was abducted but he was not meant to be ransomed, said Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the Western Police District's homicide section.

Chua and another student, Romulo Yumul, exposed anomalies in the Reserved Officers Training Corps at UST last year.

But Taluban refused to tie up Chua's death to last year's scandal at UST where the victim, a former ROTC cadet officer, accused officials of the UST Department of Military Science and Tactics of bribery and extortion.

Taluban also denied earlier reports that police had tagged as suspects the school's former ROTC commandant and officers who were dismissed as a result of Chua's whistle-blowing.

The police official said that angle is still being investigated.

Chua and Yumul filed a complaint with the Defense Department's Regional Community Defense Group, claiming that their commandant, Maj. Demy Tejares, and other officials were collecting P1,500 from students who want to be exempted from ROTC course.

Their story appeared in the Feb. 21 issue of the campus paper, The Varsitarian.

Tejares and other ROTC officials, who vehemently denied the accusations, were relieved early this year from their posts.

Chua's body was fished out of the Pasig River behind the Bureau of Immigration building Sunday morning.

The decomposing body was wrapped in brown carpet while the head was wrapped with cloth and

COPS DROP/ A22

Trader accuses 4 policemen of beating and robbing him

BY JEROME ANING

A CHINESE businessman yesterday charged four unidentified policemen with beating him up and robbing him of more than P150,000 in Binondo, Manila Thursday night.

Huang Tin Oleng, 34, married, a native of Fujian, China and temporarily residing on Ongpin Street in Sta. Cruz, said he was

TRADER ACCUSES/ A22

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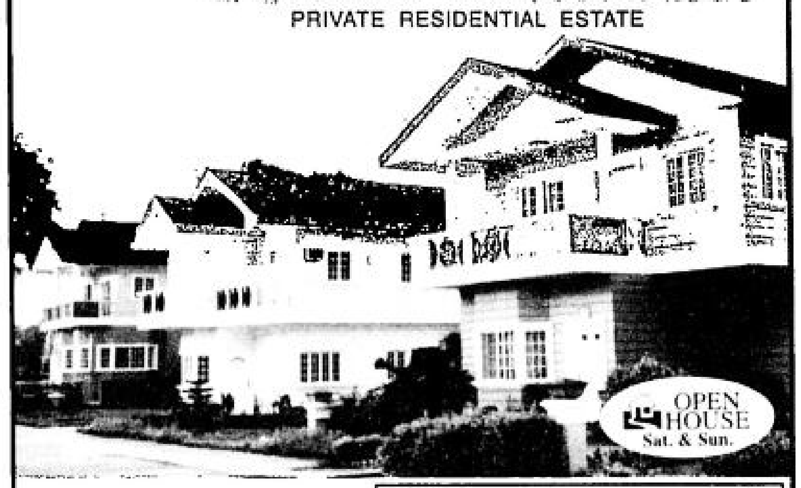

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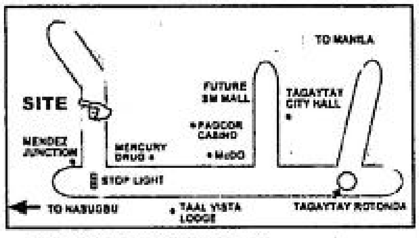

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Cowboy Grill 431 Remedios St., Malate	STAYTUNED SWEETBLOOD	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Q.C.	KNIGHTS MR. ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
KAMPO 2086 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	GENEVA CRUZ BIG DEAL/THE BOSS	P250 ENTRANCE ☎ 373.7981/83
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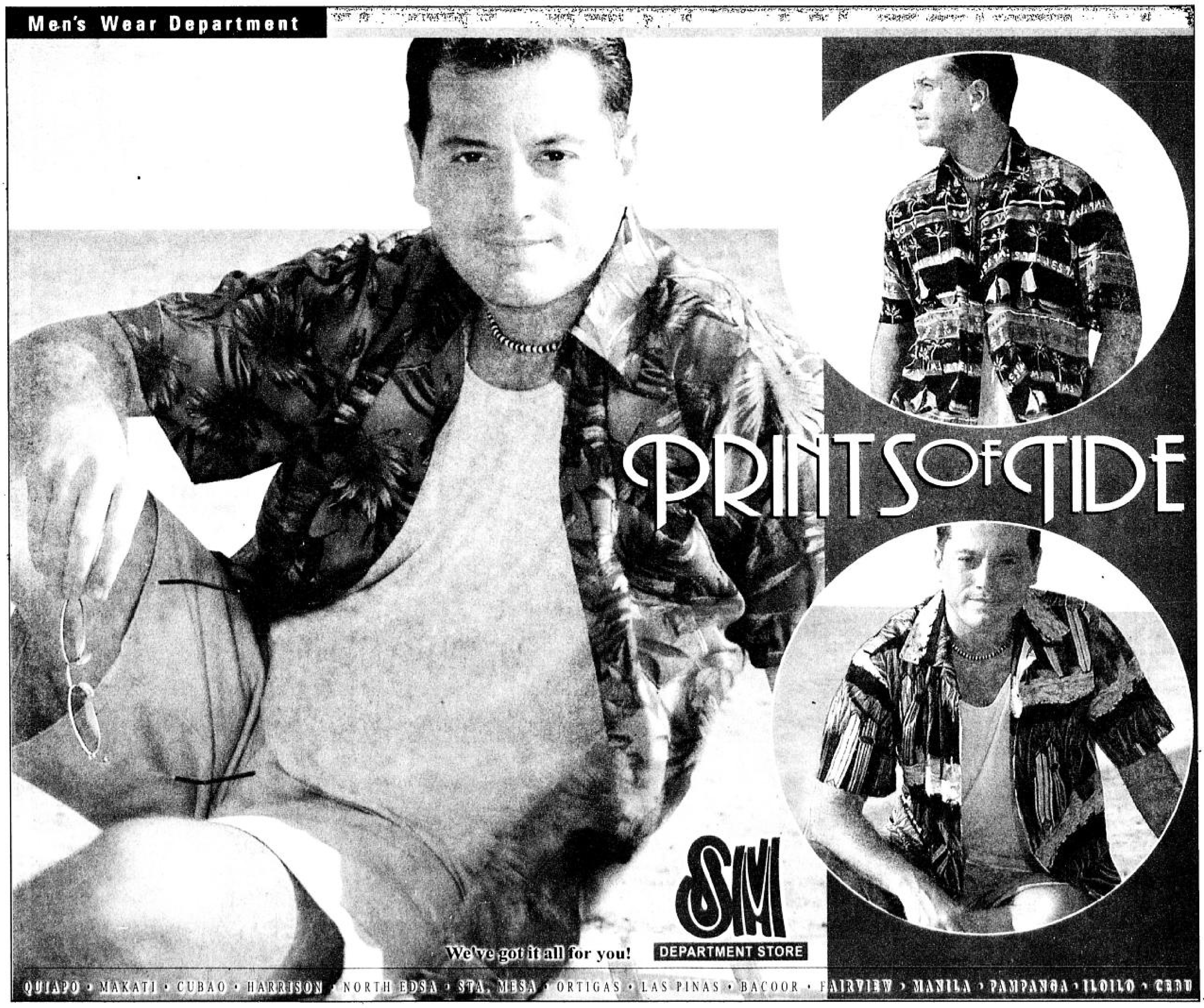
SATURDAY, MARCH 24 912-8983

Men's Wear Department



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Sin is like Fray Damaso

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IT SEEMS there's no more separation between the Church and State as embodied in the Constitution.

Jaime Cardinal Sin is acting as if President Macapagal-Arroyo is his subordinate. He jumped over Ms Macapagal's head when he called Nick Tiongson to the Archbishop's Palace and berated him over the showing of the movie "Live Show."

The President can't be blamed for not taking offense at being bypassed. After all, wasn't the good Cardinal responsible for gathering the big crowd at Edsa II that toppled the Erap administration?

* * *

But Cardinal Sin should not rub it in—-I mean the role he played in deposing Presidents Erap and Marcos. He already has a niche in Philippine history.

But why should he show his fangs at the drop of a hat when everybody in government is afraid of him? Any government official trembles at the sight of the Cardinal or the mere mention of his name.

Cardinal Sin was probably a pushover when he was a child, that's why he's taking it out on guys who can't fight back. The oppressed have become the oppressor.

* * *

Cardinal Sin is probably a reincarnation of a friar during the Spanish regime.

Friars were so powerful during the Spanish period even governors-general trembled in their holy presence. There was even a governor-general who was forced out of office by a mob through the instigation of the friars.

If he were alive today, Jose Rizal would probably smile with amusement at Sin's behavior because it is very similar to that of Fray Damaso of "Noli Mi Tangere."

* * *

Sin blew his top over the movie that depicts the lives of people who do live sex on stage. "Live Show" tells of how extreme poverty could lead some people to dehumanizing acts.

The movie was even indirectly endorsed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) after its representative saw its preview. It said the film is fit for adult viewing.

Ironically, Sin hasn't seen the movie. He was just told of its supposed salacious content by members of the Catholic Women's *Legs*.

* * *

"I do get passionate when morality is being damaged and our cherished moral values are being eroded," said the Cardinal in reaction to criticisms.

If he's that "passionate" on morality, then he should be affected by the Vatican's acknowledging a damning report that some priests were raping nuns in some cases and forcing them to take contraceptives or have abortions.

The report cited cases in 23 countries, including the Philippines.

The report cited an instance where a priest raped a nun and forced her to have abortion which resulted in her death. The same priest officiated at the nun's burial.

* * *

Sin should not even go far: One of his subordinate bishops impregnated a woman who was the bishop's secretary at a Catholic radio station.

All the employees of the radio station knew about the scandalous relationship. An official of the station, a guy who passes himself off as a colonel when he's not, acted as "bridge" between the bishop and the woman.

The woman is living in luxury in Bulacan, living off on the bishop's financial support.

Why didn't Sin order the bishop investigated?

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the military to help the police fight kidnap gangs and smugglers.

She should focus her attention on the Cebu port where three ships loaded with smuggled rice are anchored offshore. The owners of the smuggled rice are waiting for the go-signal from the new customs collector for them to land their cargo. He probably had already given the go-signal.

My sources in Cebu describe the new customs chief as "garapal" (gross) in going about his work.

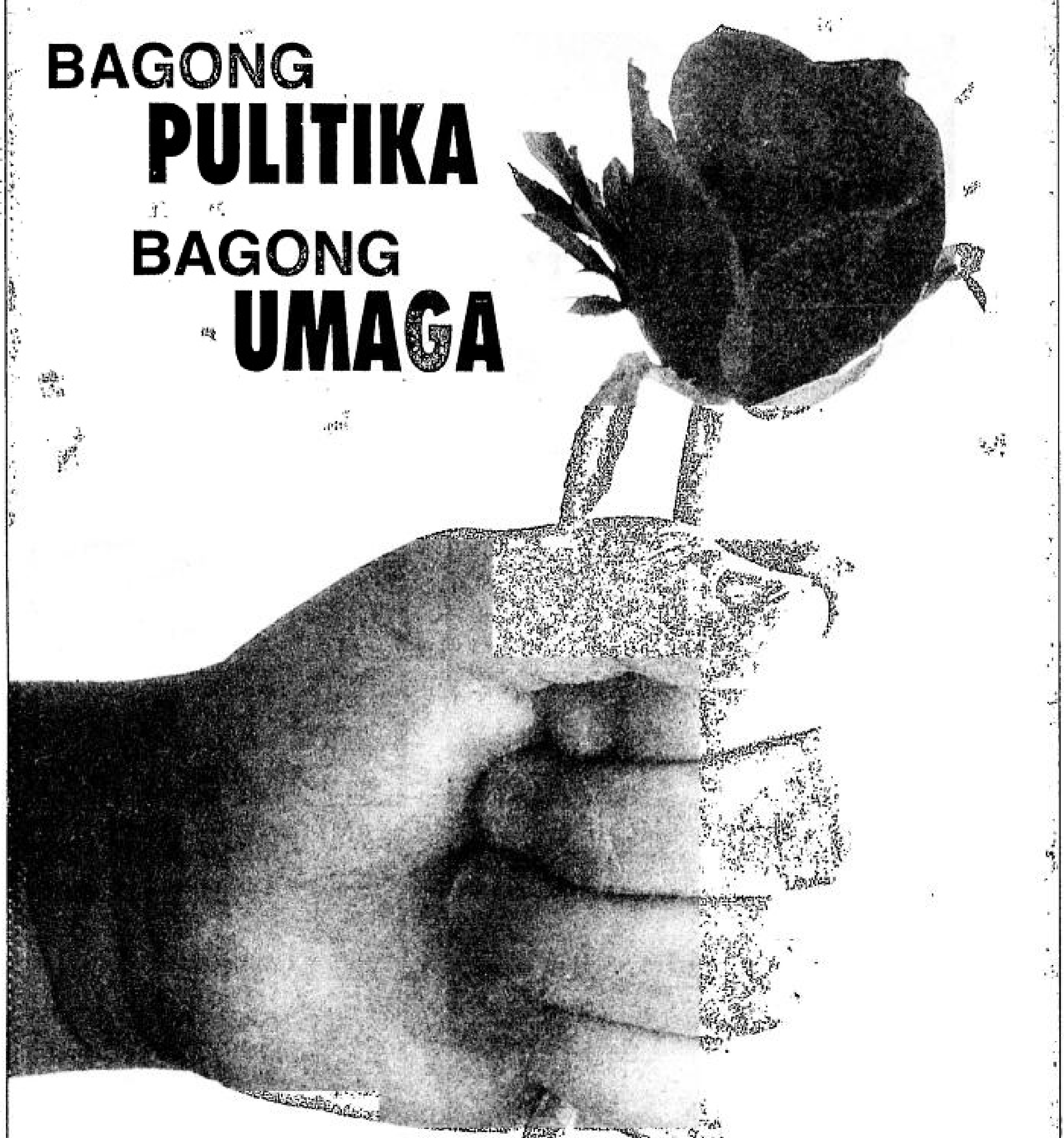
The President should also look into reports that a customs official in Mindanao receives P5 for each sack of smuggled rice that lands in Mindanao.

* * *

My condolences to a former colleague in media, Tony Calvento. Tony once had a very popular show at ABS-CBN and a much-read column on People's Journal.

Tony's son, Antonio Jr., died of a heart attack at a very tender age of 15, last March 8. The boy would have celebrated his 15th birthday on April 13.

Calvento, who's out of job, said what he's going through is a "humbling experience."



Huwag palampasin ang pagkakataong pausbungin ang pagbabago sa ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng bagong pulitika. Nasa ating mga kamay ang mas busilak na kinabukasan. Ngayon na ang panahon upang magkalsa at itanim ang binhi ng mas malaya, mas mapayapa at mas maunlad na bansa.

Para sa kabutihan ng bayan, kaakibat ninyo ang PDSP.

IBOTO PDSP
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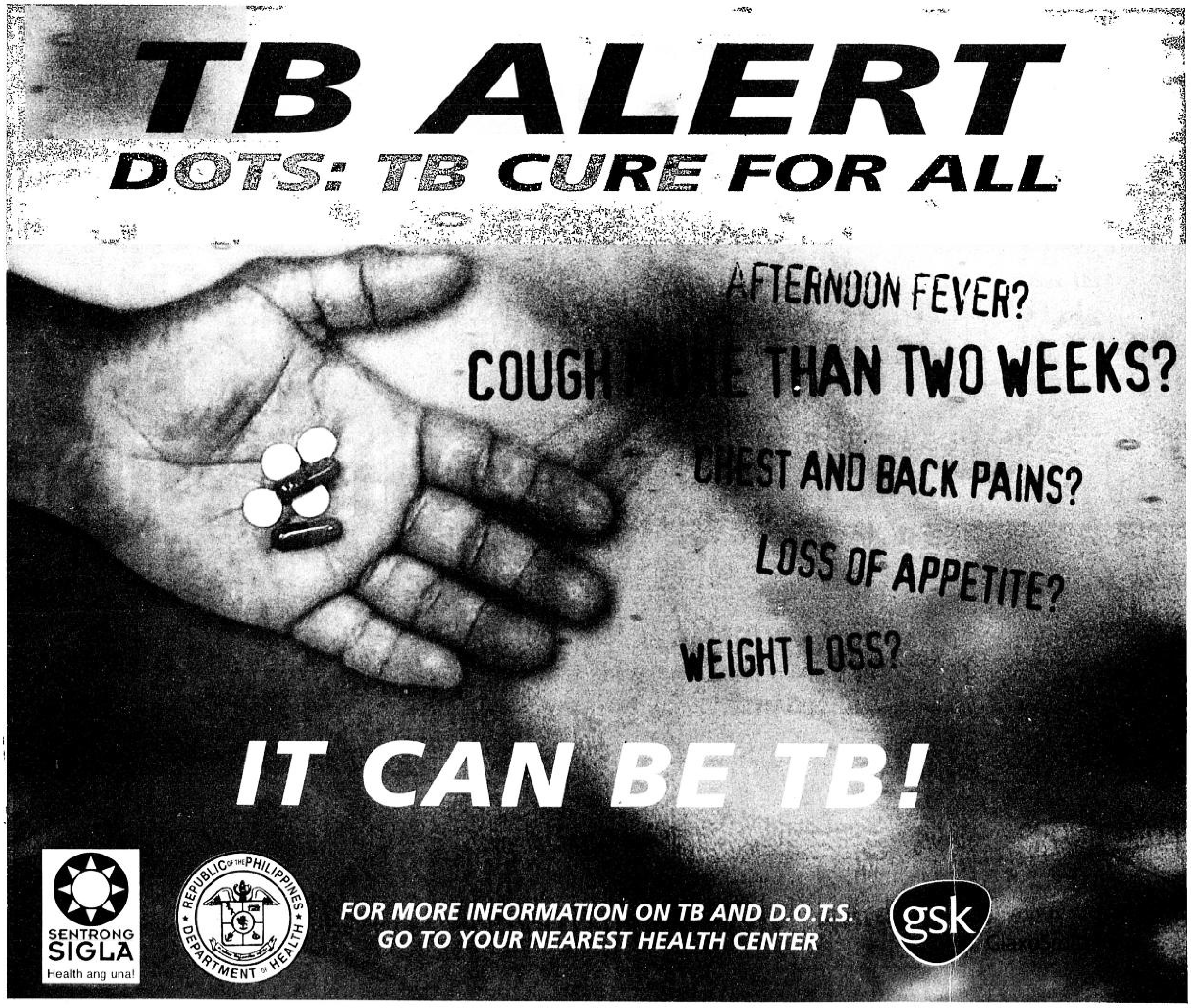
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Ex-vice mayor wants Pasig bet arrested

THE IMMEDIATE arrest of Pasig City Rep. Henry P. Lanot was sought by the city prosecutor and by former Pasig City vice mayor Francisco de Guzman Jr. after Lanot failed to appear at the promulgation of the criminal case lodged against him.

Pasig City RTC Judge Leoncio Janolo Jr., of Branch 264, handed down his decision on March 12, convicting Lanot of libel and sentencing him to imprisonment of six months to four years.

Case records showed that Lanot failed to appear at the promulgation, which prompted De Guzman's lawyer Arnold Guerrero to move for a promulgation in absentia.

The case stemmed from a written statement made by Lanot in July 1993, which described De Guzman as a "shrewd and dangerous politician." At that time, De Guzman was Pasig vice mayor while Lanot was a councilor.

Lanot and De Guzman were politically at odds because the former was perceived to be then aspiring to be the vice mayor. On several occasions, they clashed during city council meetings.

De Guzman testified that Lanot's statement destroyed his name and affected him politically. De Guzman said the statement was one of the reasons why he lost in his mayoral bid in 1995.

Judge Janolo did not give credence to Lanot's defense that the statement was made in good faith and with no malice.

Janolo observed that the "accused (Lanot), being an experienced practitioner in the related fields of law and politics, is expected to know that simple statements such as the one he made are highly liable to damage the reputation of the person described or imputed therein. If he were not so moved by malice, he could have made the appropriate changes in his statement."

Lanot is seeking reelection.

POLICE PROBE ORDERED

'Support units' not private army

By Agnes E. Donato

"WE SERVE the people and we are not the mayor's 'private army'...so spare us the politics."

This was how Tito Enriquéz of Mandaluyong lashed at critics of Mayor Benhur Abalos, who was accused of maintaining a private army.

In a joint statement issued Wednesday, Enriquez, of the Mayor's Action Command, Carlos de Guzman of the Public Order and Safety Office and SPO1 Felipe Lim of Task Force Anti-Vice all maintained their groups merely function as support units to local police.

The three groups also urged opposition mayoral candidate former vice mayor Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo to substantiate his claim that they comprise Abalos' "private army."

Domingo's accusations forced Deputy Director General Romeo Peña, head of the National Capitol Region Police Office, to order an investigation of Abalos' alleged private army.

The issue also prompted Abalos to formally turn over control of the three groups from the Mandaluyong mayor's office to the local police.

Although Peña expressed doubts that the reports were true, he still vowed to take drastic action if it were proved that Abalos violated the law, particularly the gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections.

"I don't think the private army report is true," Peña said. "But I'm ordering an investigation to ferret out the truth."

Peña would meet with ranking police officials this week to assess the peace and order situation in Metro Manila and to determine who among the electoral candidates are keeping private armies or loose firearms.

Earlier, a report identified 10 of 17 cities and municipalities as possible hot spots marked by intense political rivalry or where candidates allegedly maintained private armed groups (PAGs).

Mandaluyong City was not included in the list.

Abalos claimed the assistance groups, now under the direct supervision of Mandaluyong police chief Supt. Jose Gentiles, were created to work closely with authorities to enforce the law.

On his part, Gentiles said the three groups have been effective "partners" of the local police in peacekeeping.

He stressed the three groups should not be classified as Abalos' private army, as they were unarmed even when performing their duties.

In a memorandum dated Aug. 5, 2000, Abalos prohibited MAC, POS and Anti-Vice members to carry guns and other deadly weapons to check the proliferation of loose firearms in the city.

The ban extends to all employees of the city government.

Enriquez, head of MAC, said the three groups also extend support to the undermanned police force, which is 200-strong.

"The ideal ratio is there should be one policeman to every 500 people," Enriquez said. "So Mandaluyong, which has a population of 310,000, is supposed to have a police force of 620. But the local government decided to take the initiative and create volunteer support groups to augment the city police."

Gentiles said the private law enforcers, who used to report directly to the mayor's office, had not been duplicating the efforts of the local police.

The three groups are also mobilized in times of fires, floods and other calamities.

But Abalos and Gentiles agreed on Tuesday to formally place the three groups under police command.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Alcera vows to put up buffer fund for village officials

PASAY City Vice Mayor Greg F. Alcera, who is running for mayor, vowed to put up a barangay financial buffer fund to support barangay officials in case of emergencies.

Alcera, official candidate of Lakas-NUCD UMDP, made the announcement after more than 100 barangay chairmen endorsed his candidacy in Pasay City.

He said that P600,000 in special fund would be allocated for 2,010 village officials in 201 barangays in the city.

The fund would be disbursed only to barangay officials, including barangay heads, *tanods* and members of barangay councils who are in need of financial assistance for hospital expenses, medicines and others during emergencies.

"This would save the barangay officials from being victims of unscrupulous money lenders," Alcera said. "They can easily seek financial aid from the special fund administered by the mayor."

A maximum of P5,000 per withdrawal would be made available for the emergency purchase of medicines and hospitalization of barangay officials, he said.

The loan would be without any interest, he said.

"All the officials need to do is to submit a request for financial assistance to the city government," the Lakas standard-bearer in Pasay explained.

He said the approval of the loans would be at the discretion of the Liga ng mga Barangay.

ALCERA

Alcera, 41, said barangay officials would also receive assistance from a team of lawyers who would provide them legal aid and represent them in court.

Vice mayor tops list of council absentees, says Makati secretary

MAKATI Vice Mayor Edu Manzano and opposition Councilors Robert Dean Barbers and Mark Joseph topped the list of absentee members of the Makati City Council from July 1998 to December 2000, according to attendance records released by the Office of the City Secretary.

Council records also showed Barbers and Joseph had the worst performance record among councilors in terms of legislative work, with Barbers having filed only 73 ordinances and 151 resolutions, and Joseph only 68 ordinances and 151 resolutions for the same period.

On the other hand, Councilors Divina Jacome, Astulfo Pimentel and Liberato Siaron had near perfect attendance. The three attended 115 of 118 regular sessions of the City Council for the same period.

Manzano, who is the presiding officer of the Council, was not present in 53 of 118 sessions having been absent 38 times from the sessions, and was on sick leave, vacation leave or official leave 15 times, records showed.

Barbers did not attend 56 sessions, and Joseph, 58 sessions.

"The most basic duty of members of the Council, whether you are presiding officer or councilor, is to be present during sessions," Councilor Pimentel said. "It is during sessions that we debate and approve all ordinances and resolutions that are beneficial to the people of Makati."

Councilor Salvador Pangilinan had the most number of ordinances approved by the Council, at 222 ordinances, while Councilor Pimentel authored 477 resolutions passed by the chamber.

OB-Gyn services ready soon for LP residents

REELECTIONIST Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel Aguilar said the Las Piñas City Lying-In Clinic will soon offer OB-Gyn services, aside from the regular child delivery services it gives to the city's mothers.

The initiative is part of the Aguilar administration's free and quality health program to help residents cope with the increase in hospitalization and medical costs.

Aguilar said the expansion of the services of the lying-in clinic would benefit thousands of women in the city, especially those from poor families.

The 14-bed, fully air-conditioned lying-in clinic was set up last year as another project of Aguilar and Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante.

Since its establishment in September 2000, the clinic has assisted more than 700 pregnant women.

The city government also implemented its free hospitalization program, providing all city residents free hospital and medical services at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City.

Dr. Julio P. Javier II, lying-in clinic administrator, said Dr. Rica Macaroy, an obstetrician, would be in charge of various free OB-Gyn treatments such as dilatation and curettage, which would be exclusive to Las Piñas residents.

Aguilar also said Las Pinas residents could soon avail themselves of free eye treatments such as minor cataract surgery.

Las Piñas is a recipient of the prestigious Sentrong Sigla Award from the Department of Health (DOH) for having complete and efficient health facilities.

Residents complain about . . .

(From page A25)

Razon said Coseteng got 20 units because these are the equivalent of the P7 million-plus allocation that she contributed to the housing project, from her Countrywide Development Fund.

The PTHA member who talked to the INQUIRER questioned this, saying other homeless people should get a chance to own these housing units since they were built with public funds.

Coseteng's chief-of-staff, Carlo Gonzales, said the NHA set aside the 20 units for the senator "as a matter of courtesy" since the money she provided helped the agency finance the project.

Gonzales emphasized that the NHA has the final say on who would get the units. He said Coseteng's office would still have to raffle off the 20 slots because about 100 applicants had approached the senator.

Gonzales said Balumbato residents are welcome to submit applications.

"Why are we awarding one of the 11 senators who betrayed the republic during the impeachment hearings?" the PTHA member asked.

But Razon said the people Coseteng would recommend would not automatically get the units since they have to pass the NHA's criteria for housing applicants.

"Of course, we have to find out if they can pay the lease or if they really still have no homes," Razon said.

"The senator's staff members said they have to raffle off the units because many people applied," Razon added.

The PTHA, composed of residents of Phase II who are mostly policemen, is also complaining that its members were not properly notified of the March 9 raffle.

Because of this, many of those who won were teachers from Phase I, the source said.

The member also questioned the raffle scheduled for today, saying only Phase I residents were allowed to participate.

Razon explained that when Phase I residents bought their units, they also paid for the land where the MRH project stands.

Malonzo wants cop sacked over picket dispersal

By Christian V. Esguerra

CALOOCAN City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo has recommended the relief of a police station commander over the violent dispersal of a picket early this week where at least 15 workers were injured, according to a candidate in the mayor's ticket.

Activist Nathanael Santiago, a candidate for councilor, yesterday said Malonzo has sacked Supt. Romulo Ramos, chief of the Caloocan Police Station 1, as authorities investigated the bloody March 19 confrontation.

Ramos said he would be willing to step down if he received the relief order.

"I'm willing to be relieved," the officer said in Filipino. "There's no problem with that. What I couldn't accept is suspension. If that happens, I'll exhaust all legal remedies."

Ramos went under fire after his men allegedly harassed workers at a protest rally at the main office of Mina Transit bus company on Zabarte Road on Monday.

Around 20 workers yesterday trooped to the Caloocan police headquarters to pressure the newly installed police chief, Supt. Benjardi Mantele, to act on the matter.

Bus conductor SJ Samson told reporters at least 90 members of Station 1, including members of the Special Weapons and Tactics, and truckloads of "goons" carried out the violent dispersal.

The workers claimed police threw five bottles of teargas and clubbed protesters with steel pipes and nightsticks.

Several workers were injured, including Rembelio Denes and Benjie Tababa who still could not walk, they added.

"It's not harassment," Ramos said. "It was the protesters who were unruly. They initiated the trouble by throwing rocks and splashing human waste at us," he said.

"We really used teargas and it's legal. It's acceptable when the crowd becomes unruly."

Fresnedi delivers 10 wheelchairs

THE WHEELCHAIRS went rolling again in Muntinlupa City, this time with Mayor Jaime Fresnedi himself personally delivering them to 10 disabled residents.

Assisted by Councilor Jojay Alcaraz and other city government officials, Fresnedi went to the houses of the recipients.

The first he visited was stroke victim Lucio Teofista of Buendia Street, Tunasan. Teofista thanked the mayor and said he would now be able to move around the city with his wife.

The other wheelchair recipients were Marcelina Zarate, 77, and Conching Argame of Arandia Street, Tunasan, who is suffering from arthritis. Fresnedi and company then proceeded to New Bilibid Prisons in Poblacion where Luis Macrohon was waiting.

The others who received their wheelchairs were diabetic Juanito Golez, Richard Makasiray, Rolinda Palomares and Jovita Pili Miniano. A steel walker was given to Lolito Magbanua of Lakeview.

Fresnedi said "Gulong ng Buhay" has so far distributed 148 wheelchairs since last year.

Fresnedi also gave away medicines and bags of groceries to the recipients as well as candies and other goodies to the children who welcomed him.

Fetus found buried in mom's backyard

By Philip C. Tubeza

A WOMAN factory worker allegedly had an abortion to hide her affair with another man. Now she is also facing bigamy charges that will be filed by her husband.

At noon on Thursday, security officers of Barangay Pasong Putik in Novaliches, Quezon City discovered a 7-month-old fetus in a plastic dipper buried in the backyard of the woman's home on Bougainvillea Street in Pasong Putik, said investigator PO3 Juan Mortel.

The woman is confined at the East Avenue Medical Center because she bled after going through an induced abortion, Mortel said.

Barangay officer Felipe Tubijano said one of the woman's neighbors reported to the barangay that a baby was buried in the woman's backyard. The neighbors also complained of a foul smell coming from the factory worker's house.

Watchman guns down worker who played pranks on him

MANILA police are hunting a security guard who allegedly shot to death yesterday morning a construction worker who has been teasing and playing pranks on him in Binondo.

Thursday night, Jerry Obinita, 25, a native of Tarlac and a resident of Camba Street, Tondo, allegedly teased Christian Amparo for doing the laundry.

Amparo, an employee of the Adigue Security Agency and resident of Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, yesterday around 7 a.m. confronted Obinita when he saw him leaving the Mass Dynamic Construction Corp. building, where they both worked, along Elcano Street in Binondo.

But Obinita ignored the guard, said SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr. of the city police homicide section. This enraged the guard who drew his .38-caliber service pistol and fired at Obinita.

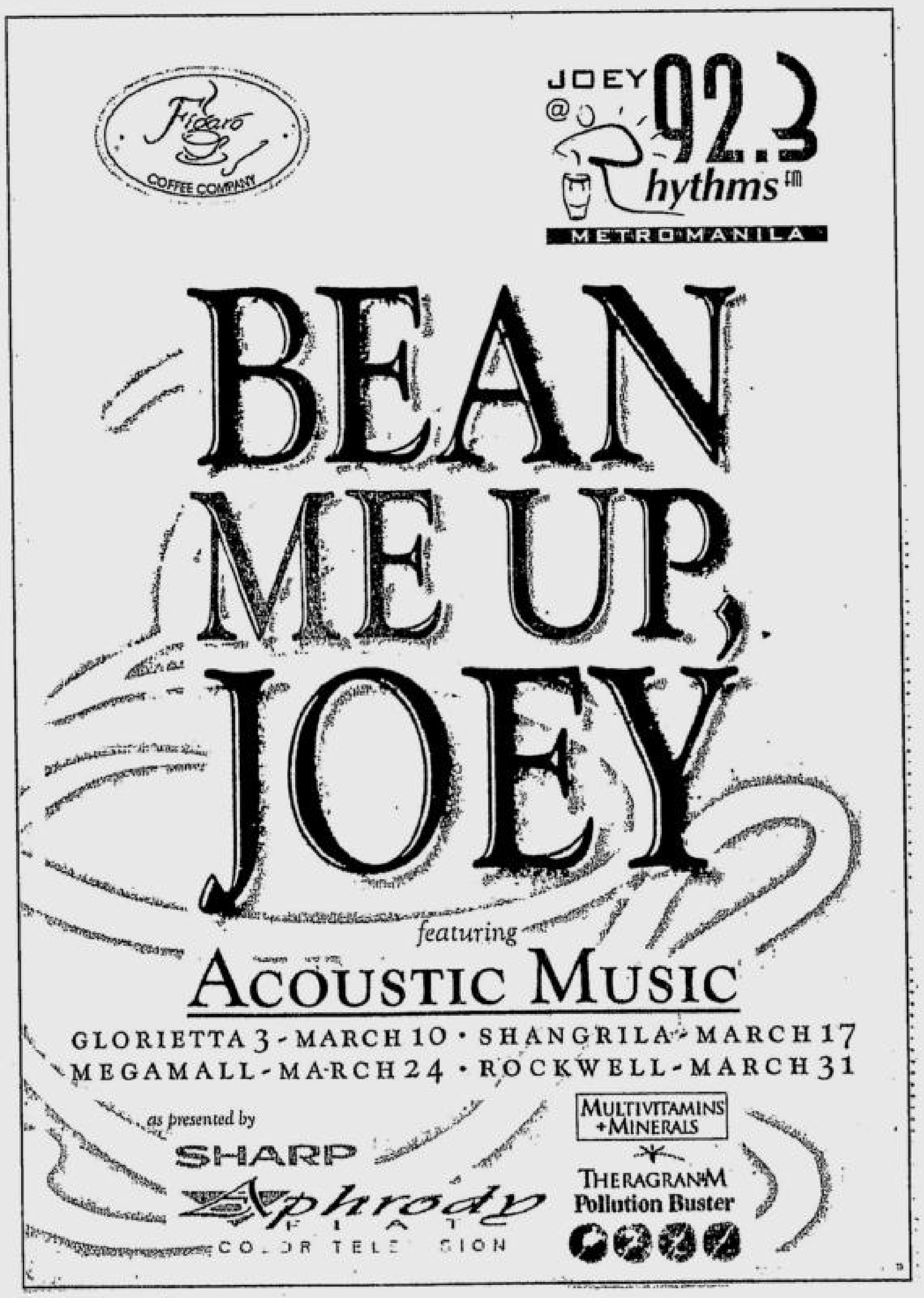
The construction worker was hit in the back and collapsed. The security guard approached him and fired five more times.

Other construction workers brought Obinita to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center but he was already dead.

According to one witness, Jun-Jun Vola, Amparo was usually heckled and teased by Obinita and the other workers. He said the security guard was a quiet man who rarely gets irked.

But he apparently got fed up when Obinita saw him doing the laundry the other night and called him "*ander*" for "under the saya" or for being henpecked.

Jerome Aning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I made promises . . .

(From page A25)

"This is I think my most important piece of legislation for it would benefit millions of Filipinos," he says.

Facelift

Other Gunigundo bills and resolutions have given Valenzuela a significant facelift. The lawmaker has also devoted his entire term to the construction of several school and hospital buildings and other infrastructures.

The Sitero Francisco Memorial National High School will open next schoolyear and is expected to decongest high schools in Gen. T. de Leon, Baesa, Parada, and Canumay.

The Polo River and the Tullahan River, whose muddy water is thick with garbage and an occasional dead body, have been undergoing regular dredging since 1998.

The dredging, together with the upgrading of the Valenzuela stretch of the MacArthur Highway, is so far the only effective solution to the city's decades-old flood problem.

Today, waist-deep floods brought by torrential rains have been confined to the vicinity of the Tullahan Bridge. The renovation of the bridge in the next few months is expected to reduce flooding.

The fiery lawmaker is facing the unenviable task of trying to cure a deeply rooted political malady, even as he runs against former mayor Santy de Guzman.

"Local politicians are short-sighted," he says. "They stand too near the blackboard. They don't see the bigger picture. All they care about are their selfish interests.

"You need to reach out to get new ideas and resources then apply them in your locality."

Gunigundo is no movie star's husband and is not a member of the House committee on silence. He simply gets the job done.

Malabon squatters . . .

(From page A19)

demolitions since he became mayor in 1995.

Last year, thousands of families were displaced following the demolition of shanties in barangays Catmon, Letre, C-4, Tanioug, San Agustin, Ibaba, Concepcion, and Baritan, Bercilla said.

The demolitions in Letre and Catmon were an offshoot of the cleaning of the Succor Creek to pave the way for the town's flood control project, he added.

The squatters also denounced another demolition in Letre last Thursday, which left 174 families homeless.

"We can no longer make any appeal to Vicencio," Bercilla said. "He has failed us in the last six years."

Balatbat said squatters should realize that the reported demolitions were carried out by the national government and Vicencio could not do anything about them.

"The demolitions they were talking about were programs of the national government," he said. "*Ginagamit lang sila ngayon sa pulitika dahil mag-eeleksiyon.*"

Trader accuses . . .

(From page A19)

walking home from the Royal Garden restaurant on Quintin Paredes Street about 8:30 p.m. when an owner-type jeep with a siren stopped.

He said four men in police uniform got off the jeep and said something. He said he gave them his alien residency certificate which one of them grabbed.

Huang told police investigators he was dragged into the vehicle and beaten with metal pipes until he passed out. When he regained consciousness, he was lying at the corner of Gandara and Nieva streets.

He checked his wallet and found missing US$2,500, Hong Kong $250 and P28,000.

Huang said he remembered the jeep's plate number as FGL-883.

The victim is recovering from his injuries at an undisclosed hospital and has already notified the Chinese Embassy.

Cops drop kidnap-for-ransom angle in UST student's

(From page A19)

packaging tape. The hands and feet were tied with shoelaces.

Autopsy results showed Mark died of suffocation due to the tape on his head which covered his nostrils and mouth.

Police said it is also possible the suspects did not intend to kill the victim.

Taluban said Chua was last seen around 4 p.m. of March 15 at the ROTC office in UST. But the police official said it did not mean the victim was abducted there.

At dawn on March 16, Chua's father Welson said they received a call from men who claimed to have kidnapped Mark. The callers reportedly demanded a P3-million ransom.

The family received another call later asking them if they had the money but Welson said they did not have it. The person on the other end of the line said, "No money, no son," and hung up.

There were no further calls.

In an interview, Welson believed the calls were a ruse to confuse the investigators.

Taluban agreed: "Why would the abductors not make a follow-up call to further negotiate if they really intended to collect ransom?"

After a long search, Welson found his son's body at the Tres Amigos Funeral Homes in Paco, identifying Mark with the ROTC dogtag he was wearing.

Welson was quoted by The Varsitarian as saying his son and Yumul each received death threats during the investigation of their complaint.

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- "Gothello" (GTLO) Switch your opponent's symbols into your own by making moves in slots where your opponent's symbols are.
- "BingoTxt" (BT) Place your symbols in a row of four before your opponent does.

REG Eric

1. To register, key in REG followed by your name and send to 230. Only registered players will be ranked versus other players.

PLAY GTLO 09181234567

2. To play a game, key in PLAY followed by your game of choice, your opponent's registered name or celfone number, and send to 230

MOVE A4 You don't stand a chance!

3. To make a move during the game, key in MOVE followed by the position, your comment to your opponent and send to 230

SAY Hello! Make your move!

4. To send messages to your opponent, key in SAY followed by your message and send to 230

RANK Eric

5. To find out your ranking, key in RANK followed by your name and send to 230 To find out the top 10 players in a game, key in RANK the name of the game and send to 230

HELP PLAY

6. To get more info on SMART TextGames, key in HELP followed by the command you need help on and send to 230

QUIT

7. To quit game, key in QUIT and send to 230

SMART TextGames Rates: P2.50/message sent

SMART zed services are available through:

SMART GOLD GSM

SMART Buddy pre-paid

Gov't loses P50 billion due to traffic, says NGO

DISORDERLY traffic causes the government to lose some P50 billion due to production time and fuel consumption annually, according to a nongovernment organization.

The newly formed Movement for Efficient Traffic and Road Order (Metro) said Metro Manila residents spend about 10 years of their lives agonizing in paralyzed traffic.

Metro president Antonio Villegas urged Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to take a "holistic, but not necessarily complex," approach to traffic management.

While he commended Abalos on his move to devolve traffic management to the local government units, Villegas cited a number of proposals that the MMDA could implement to solve the traffic problem.

Villegas called for the banning of all trucks during daytime, claiming that even the Association of Truckers has expressed willingness to travel and make their deliveries at night on the condition that the receiving centers in the piers would be open.

He pointed out that the present truck ban scheme, which runs from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., is being "blatantly violated."

Villegas also urged the MMDA to rid the sidewalks of ambulant vendors and to prohibit motorcycles from using the sidewalks.

He said the use of sidewalks by vendors and motorcycles drives pedestrians away and promotes jaywalking.

He also asked the Department of Public Works and Highways to paint red the outer lane of every major street before every intersection and luminous yellow all pedestrian crossings.

Agnes E. Donato

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR		4173868
1	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	PANABLA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
SM CENTERPOINT		7149522 • 7161418
1	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
3	DTS	BAIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HANNIBAL
7	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
SM CITY FAIRVIEW		9350749
1	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PANABLA
SM CITY MANILA		5239240
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	CHOCOLAT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	QUILLS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
11	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
1	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
SM MEGAMALL		6331901 • 6329401
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
2	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
4	DTS	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
SM CITY NORTH EDSA		9295452
1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
7	DTS	BAIT
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HANNIBAL
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
12	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
SM SOUTHMALL		8066888 • 8066782
1	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BAIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
6	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE GIFT
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
10	ULTRA SURROUND	PANABLA
TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PANABLA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BLONDIE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SNATCH
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SNATCH
3	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
SM PAMPANGA		7128015
1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WEDDING PLANNER
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 THE GIFT
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG...
4 BAIT

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GLORIETTA 4

1 MS. CONGENIALITY – In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 BAIT – In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE GIFT THX – In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON – In DTS DIGITAL SOUND – Art Film
5 QUILLS – In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 WEDDING PLANNER – In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 CHOCOLAT – In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 CHOCOLAT – in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 THE GIFT – in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY – in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARCH 23, 24, 30, 31 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 – Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1 THE GIFT THX – in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 WEDDING PLANNER – in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BAIT – in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CHOCOLAT – in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY – in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) WEDDING PLANNER
2 (SDDS) BAIT
3 (DTS) MS. CONGENIALITY
4 GOLD (DTS) HANNIBAL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE GIFT
6 GOLD (SDDS) CHOCOLAT
7 GOLD (DOLBY) QUILLS
8 DRACULA 2000
9 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PANABLA
3 (DTS) TOO MUCH FLESH
4
5
6 (DTS) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 (DTS) RESERVE
3 PANABLA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 PANABLA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 THE GIFT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BAIT
5 PANABLA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4
5
6 THE GIFT
7 TOO MUCH FLESH
8 RESERVE

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR P30 00
2 WONDER BOY
3 PROOF OF LIFE
4 IKA-7 GLORYA
5 —
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 HAYOP SA GANDA
3 TURN ON
4 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR P30 00

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HANNIBAL
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
A SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 TOO MUCH FLESH
3

GOTESCO CINEMAS

City
(Manila) tel 734.8560
1 (DOLBY) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PANABLA
3 MS. CONGENIALITY
4 CHOCOLAT
5 QUILLS
6 OOOPS TEKA LANG
7 (DTS) BAIT
8 (SDDS) WEDDING PLANNER
9 (DOLBY) THE GIFT

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 PANABLA
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS) KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5 PANABLA
6 (DOLBY) THE GIFT
7 (DTS) DRACULA 2000
8 RESERVE
9 HOSTAGE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) BAIT
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5 (SDDS) WEDDING PLANNER
6 PANABLA
7 (DOLBY) THE GIFT
8 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 PANABLA
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5 (SDDS) THE GIFT
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DOLBY) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7868
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson Lords Jennet PANABLA

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 THE GIFT
3 PANABLA
4 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 PANABLA
4 LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
5 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6 APOY SA MAGDAMAG

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PANABLA
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PURPLE STORM
3 (DTS) OOOPS TEKA LANG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 (DTS) TOO MUCH FLESH
3 (DOLBY) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 DUDE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PANABLA
3 OBJECT OF OBSESSION
4 (DTS) OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DTS) PURPLE STORM
4 TOO MUCH FLESH
5 PANABLA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 PANABLA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 PURPLE STORM

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 NURSE BETTY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 BLONDIE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 PURPLE STORM

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 TOO MUCH FLESH
3 PANABLA
4 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808
1 (DTS) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 TOO MUCH FLESH
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DRACULA 2000
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 PURPLE STORM

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 RESERVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 WEDDING PLANNER
4 (DTS ES) MS. CONGENIALITY

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3. CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
4. CHOCOLAT
5. BAIT
6. QUILLS
7. THE GIFT

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2. BAIT
3. PANABLA
4. THE GIFT
5. SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6. OOOPS, TEKA LANG

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453

1. PAY IT FORWARD
2. OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3. WOMAN ON TOP
4. SNATCH
5. HANNIBAL
6. TUHOG

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BAIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	QUILLS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PANABLA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	CHOCOLAT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
MIRAMAR	NAGHUHUMIYAW/WHIPPED
ODEON	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ODEON-2	PANABLA
ROBEN	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
QUEZON-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
REMAR	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
REMAR-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-A	SELOSA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	MADAME X
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79, 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	QUILLS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-3	PANABLA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-6	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-7	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-8	PURPLE STORM
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	QUILLS
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	MALIKOT D/W NAKED LIES
CINEMA-3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	QUILLS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	THE GIFT
CINEMA-5	BAIT
CINEMA-6	WEDDING PLANNER

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10:40 PM - Quills

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

MAGI GUNIGUNDO

'I made promises and I fulfilled them'

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

Voter's Voice 2001 ELEKSYON

FLOODS. Garbage. Traffic jams. Name the worst metropolitan blight, and Valenzuela City had it.

If you asked a taxi driver to take you to Valenzuela, the standard reply would be a dismissive "no." Taxi drivers avoided the northern Metro Manila city as if it were a dying, decaying leper because of its heavy traffic and stinking garbage, not to mention that it would sink following the slightest drizzle.

But all this was years ago. It took a "Spice Boy" to give Valenzuela the attention—and respect—it deserves.

When Magi Gunigundo assumed office in 1998 as representative of Valenzuela's second congressional district, the city started to gain self-confidence. It started to prove itself as more than just a sleepy, garbage-filled town of dull factories.

"I want Valenzuela to be a city we can be proud of," said Gunigundo, one of the young legislators in the group called Spice Boys at the House of Representatives.

"I want it to be a city where the crime rate is low, where there's an adequate road network and a workable solid waste management system," says the congressman who is gunning for a second term.

"I made promises and I fulfilled them," he points out. "I have a track record to show."

HELP

During the 1998 election campaign, Gunigundo made a simple promise—to deliver with effectiveness the basic services in health and education, and to achieve palpable economic growth.

The promise was the centerpiece of his program HELP (Health, Education and Environment, Livelihood, and Public Infrastructure).

GUNIGUNDO

If elected to a second term, Gunigundo promises to intensify his HELP program.

Running against old politicians and their old, tired promises, Gunigundo with his youthful exuberance and solid academic background got his chance. So far, he has kept his promise.

"I'm proud to say that I've finished majority of the projects I've promised," he tells the INQUIRER in an evening interview at his Marulas headquarters. "If I would win again, I'd be able to complete the program."

Gunigundo would not have placed 13th in the 1989 bar at age 24 for nothing.

Barely a year in office, and when anti-Estrada sentiments were discussed only in hushed talks, Gunigundo made a stunning exposé. Gunigundo, formerly the chief of the Bureau of Custom's special anti-smuggling unit, revealed that Cabinet officials had been enjoying the use of 52 smuggled luxury cars.

The exposé forced the Estrada government to recall the vehicles. Most of them were sold, generating P79.6 million for the cash-strapped administration.

"This is what I consider my greatest achievement as a young lawmaker," says Gunigundo, who was chosen the House's Rookie of the Year for his revelations.

Shortened process

He did not rest on his laurels, however. An active participant in heated House sessions, he submitted 55 bills and 14 resolutions of national and local significance, a rare feat for a neophyte lawmaker.

He is proud of the Clerical Error Bill, otherwise known as the "Gunigundo Bill," which would hasten the correction of errors in birth certificates. Presently, it takes a person at least six months to correct an error in his birth certificate, what with the long and winding legal and bureaucratic procedures.

"A person should not suffer for a mistake he did not commit," Gunigundo explains.

The bill, which is set to be signed by the President soon, would shorten the process to less than three weeks.

IMADE/A22

Residents complain about 'unfair distribution' of QC housing

By PHILIP C. TUBEZA

RESIDENTS of the Police-Teachers Housing Project (PTHP) in Balumbato, Quezon City are wondering why Sen. Nikki Coseteng spent more than P7 million in public funds for 20 new housing units but made them exclusive only to her staff and other people recommended by her office.

A member of the Police Teachers Home-owners Association (PTHA) asked the Inquirer for help about what he alleged was the unfair distribution of the new homes to housing applicants.

The 20 units are part of a 92-unit medium-rise housing (MRH) project recently built in Balumbato.

Rodolfo Razon, of the National Housing Authority Quezon City office, said the remaining 70 units were distributed to other government employees, the general public, and the extended families of original Balumbato residents.

Razon said 30 units were raffled off to the general public on March 9. Today, 10 more units would be raffled off to the extended families of PTHP Phase I residents, most of whom are public teachers.

RESIDENTS/ A21

'50 Rosaries for 50 Days' marks Crusade's 50th year

FATHER Patrick Peyton's Family Rosary Crusade (FRC) is celebrating its 50th year of ministry in the Philippines with a major campaign to promote its mission.

Dubbed "50 Rosaries for 50 Days," the campaign will encourage families, communities, church-based organizations and other interested groups to pray the rosary for 50 consecutive days from March 25 to May 13. The idea is to bring back the glory and tradition of praying the rosary, once a popular and favorite daily activity of the predominantly Catholic Filipino population.

For its golden jubilee, FRC seeks to carry on for the next 50 years the evangelization of Filipinos through the family rosary and the affirmation of Fr. Peyton's famous slogan, "The family that prays together stays together."

March 25 marks the Annunciation and May 13 commemorates the day the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared in Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

May 13 also falls a day before the Philippine elections.

"50 Rosaries for 50 Days" will feature 50 families and will include former President Corazon Aquino, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, Imelda Cojuangco, Howard Q. Dee, Leon Hontiveros, Carmelo Gomez, Bel Cunanan, Joe Concepcion, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen, Anita Meily, Mon Pedrosa and others praying the rosary at exactly 10:25 to 10:30 a.m. It will be televised beginning March 25 on ABS-CBN.

As a warm-up to "50 Rosaries for 50 Days," FRC is mounting a live telethon special today, from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight, on ANC, the ABS-CBN News Channel.

Viewers will be asked to call through eight telephone lines to commit their pledges to pray the rosary daily for 50 days.

Prominent personalities led by Noel Trinidad, Subas Herrero, June Keithley, Pinky Marquez, Jacqui Magno, Johnny Delgado, Laurice Guillen, Leah Navarro, Mitch Valdes, faculty members from the UP Conservatory of Music, Jeanne Young, Fr. Robert Reyes, Msgr. Soc Villegas and more are expected to grace the telethon to either perform musical numbers, act as volunteers in answering the phones, or give their testimonies on praying the rosary.

Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. is overall director.

The public is invited to watch and be part of the telethon special.

Pledges to "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" may also be sent to the Family Rosary Crusade, Room 309 Pius XII Catholic Center, 1175 UN Avenue, Paco 1007 Manila. Call 521-6953752-2779, fax 5220721, e-mail [illegible] or log on to [illegible]

AYALA CINEMAS
LATE NIGHT SCREENINGS
LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES
FOR
MARCH 24 (Saturday), 2001

THE GIFT (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 11:30 p.m.
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn
Greenbelt 11:00 p.m.

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG-13)
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn

BAIT (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 11:15 p.m.
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn

CHOCOLAT (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 10:45 p.m.
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn
Greenbelt 11:00 p.m.

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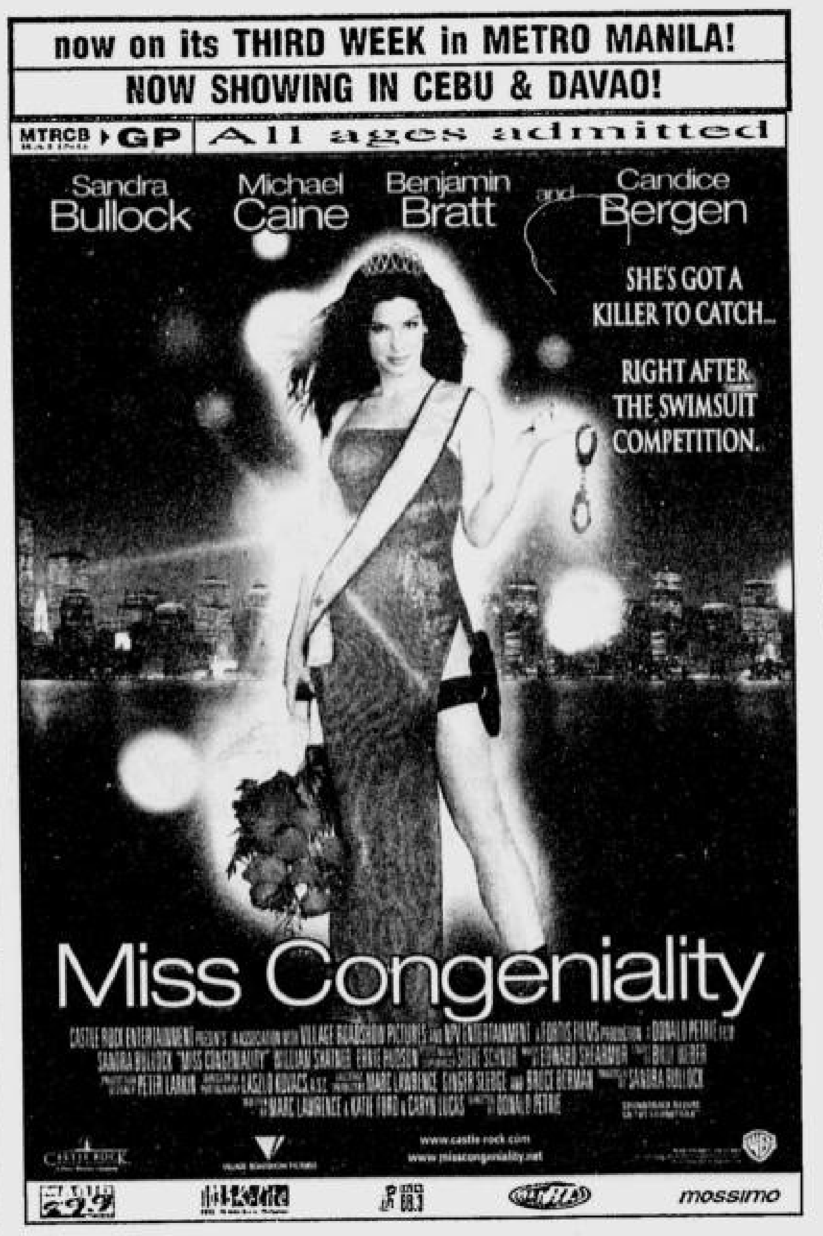
1	2	3
QUILLS - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	CHOCOLAT - P 13 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:35, 11:05	CROUCHING TIGER - P 13 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
THE GIFT - P 13 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	BAIT - P 13 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:30	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15



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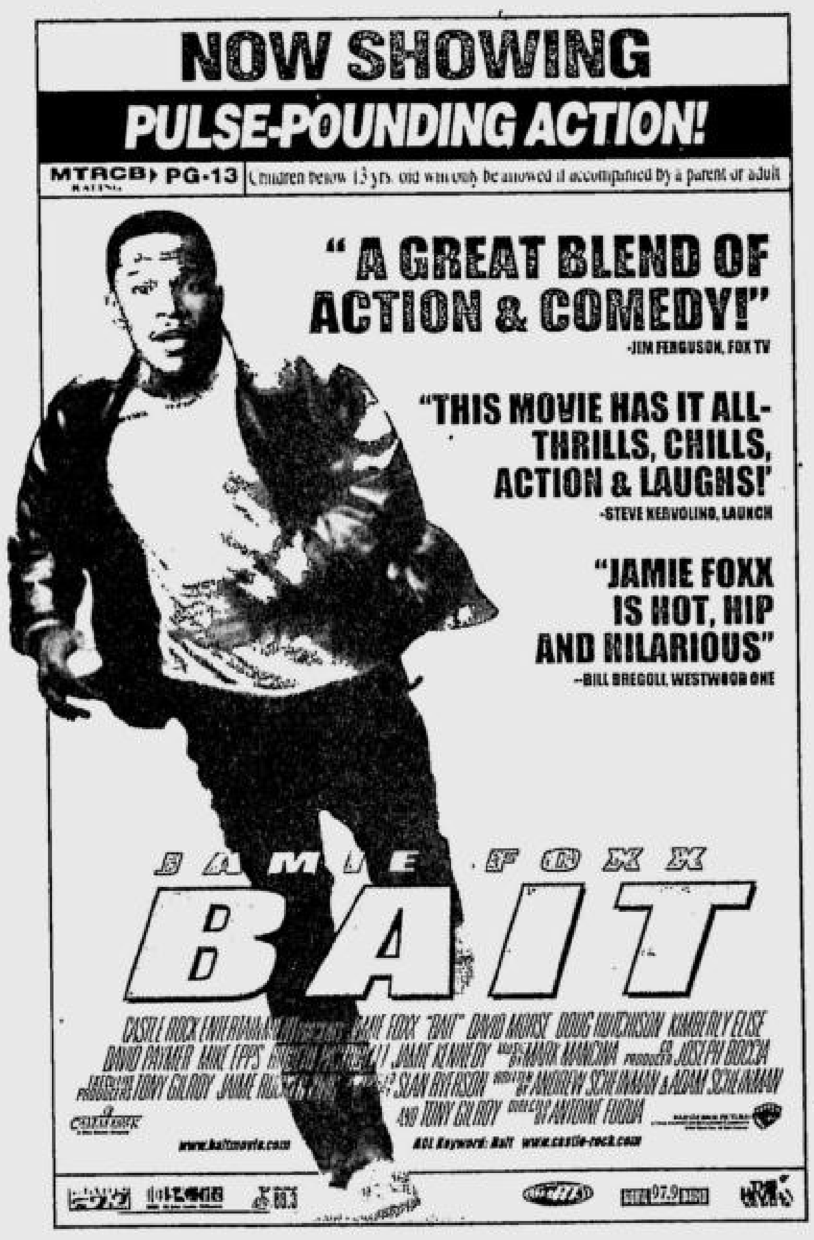
Miss Congeniality



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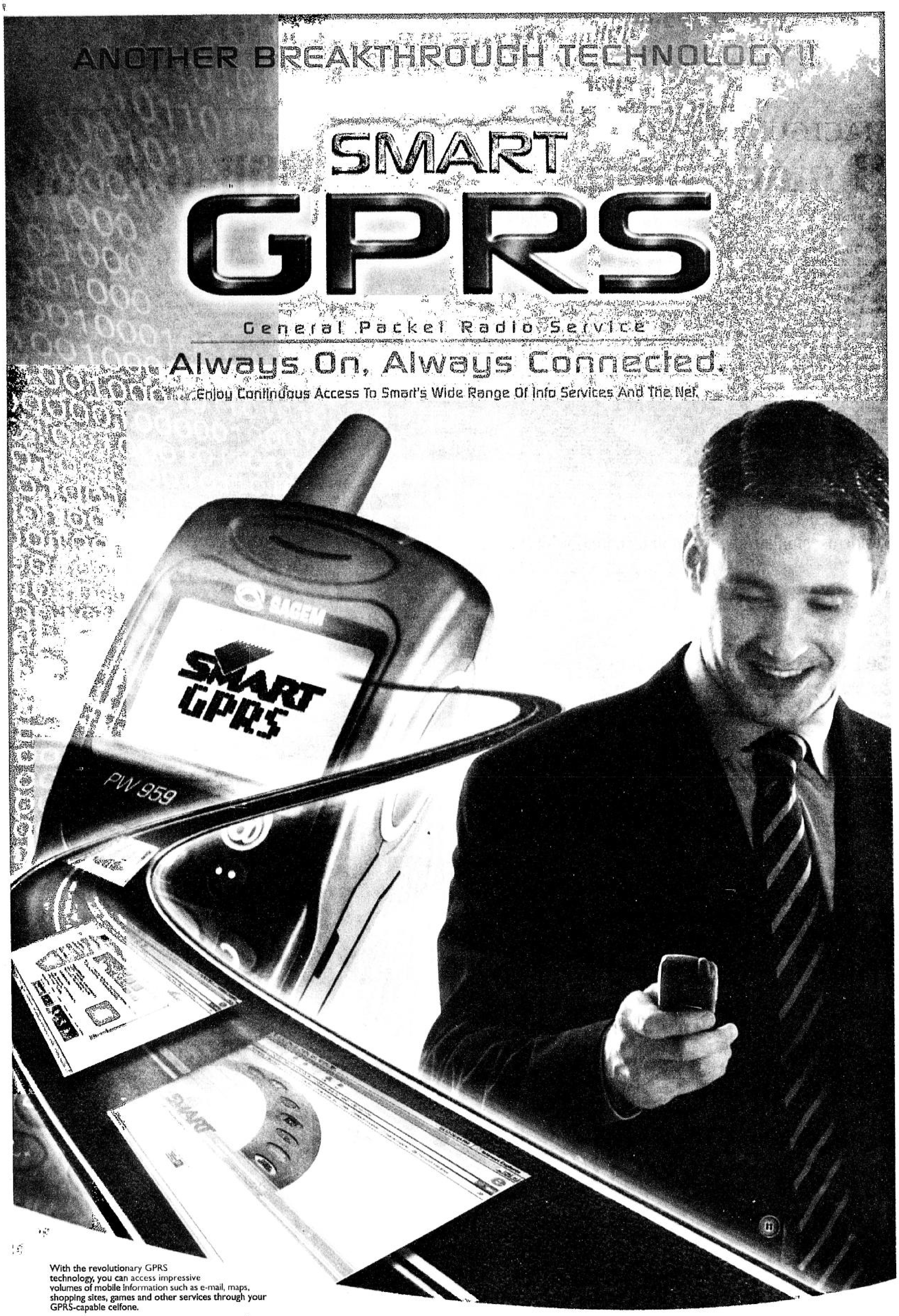
"JAMIE FOXX IS HOT, HIP AND HILARIOUS" --BILL BREGOLI, WESTWOOD ONE
JAMIE FOXX
BAIT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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

GRAND VITARA
SUZUKI

American investors bullish on RP

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

A TEAM of top American executives yesterday wrapped up its three-day mission to the Philippines visibly impressed over President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic savvy and the Filipino workers' growing reputation for quality output.

The diverse American companies promised not only to put more money into the country but also send good word among their peers in the US that the Philippines now has a government that businessmen can do business with.

"Come on in, the water here is fine. We hope to be swimming here soon," said Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce chair John J.P. Howley, head of the 22-member US trade mission.

Howley said there was "a heightened interest and excitement" among the mission members on the prospects of investing in the Philippines only two months after the scandal-tainted Estrada administration was toppled by People Power II. He said the American senior executives found the new President "honest, intelligent and speaks the language of business."

Aside from the President, Howley said the group was also enlightened by the testimonies made by American companies operating in the country particularly on the high ratings given on the quality of Filipino labor.

He cited Ford Motor Co.'s report that Filipino workers were better than their counterparts in Japan who are also assembling the Ford Lynx. Howley said Filipinos were also ranked high in terms of quality output among information technology workers.

Members of the mission pledged to share the positive news about the Philippines to other businessmen in the United States as well as follow up on several investment leads in the country. They also agreed that the slowdown in the US economy would not affect their business plans in the country.

Howley disclosed that Prudential Asia Infrastructure Investors Ltd. has allotted $75 million out of its investment funds to the Philippines, specifically for transport.

Spectrum Technology Corp. president Sam J. Higgins said his company would finalize its offer to the government to explore and develop oil and gas reserves at no expense to the government. Higgins said the company's technology has made it cost-effective to hunt and tap oil and gas reserves even in deepwater.

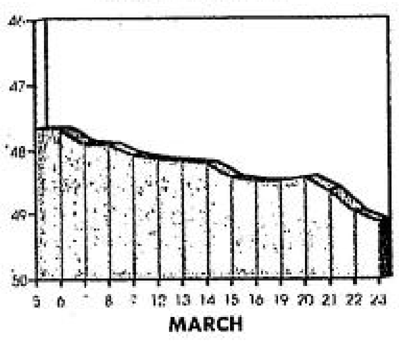
Computer Associates country manager Lysander Salcedo said his company, one of the world's biggest software makers, would make the Philippines its regional hub for software development.

Continental Airlines vice president Walter Dias said his firm was planning to increase its flights to the country in anticipation of increased traffic from tourists and *balikbayans*.

SCS-Wetherill managing director Thomas D. Wetherill said his company was looking closely at both government and private projects for solid waste management in the country.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱49.135= $1

As of 5 p.m., March 23, 2001

¥122.82 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 122.82 as of 5 p.m., March 23, 2001

GOLD:$262.10/262.60

per ounce Hong Kong, March 23, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 2.4%

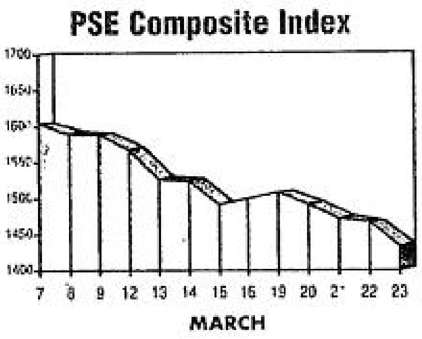
SHARE prices fell 2.4 percent yesterday on continuing turmoil in overseas markets, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 34.66 points to close at 1,431.57.

"The general market is sympathizing with the turmoil in the global markets," said Juan Trinidad of Vickers-Ballas Securities Philippines Inc.

"Fund managers are hard-pressed to protect themselves, raising cash

SHARES/ B2



(See stock market report on Page B3)

2 Japanese firms keen on RP power projects

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

AT LEAST two Japanese firms have signified interest to invest in the Philippines once the power bill is passed, a Japanese Embassy official said.

Yoshimasa Sakai, first secretary of the Japanese Embassy, told reporters that Kansai Electric Corp. and Kyushu Electric Corp. were interested to maximize the opportunities that the deregulation of the power sector would offer.

Kansai Electric is already participating in the $1.2-billion San Roque hydroelectric power project. Kyushu, on the other hand, has a stake in the $710-million, 1,200-megawatt Ilijan power plant being constructed in Batangas.

"The (two firms) are to focus next on micro-hydropower projects near San Roque and in geothermal power in Tanauan in the Bicol peninsula," Yoshimasa said.

The official said the firms were also involved in the Mahagnao micro-hydropower demonstration project in Leyte, where at least 300 households in three remote barangays are expected to be energized.

The Department of Energy and Japan's Ministry of Economic Trade and Industry recently signed a memorandum of understanding to undertake the project.

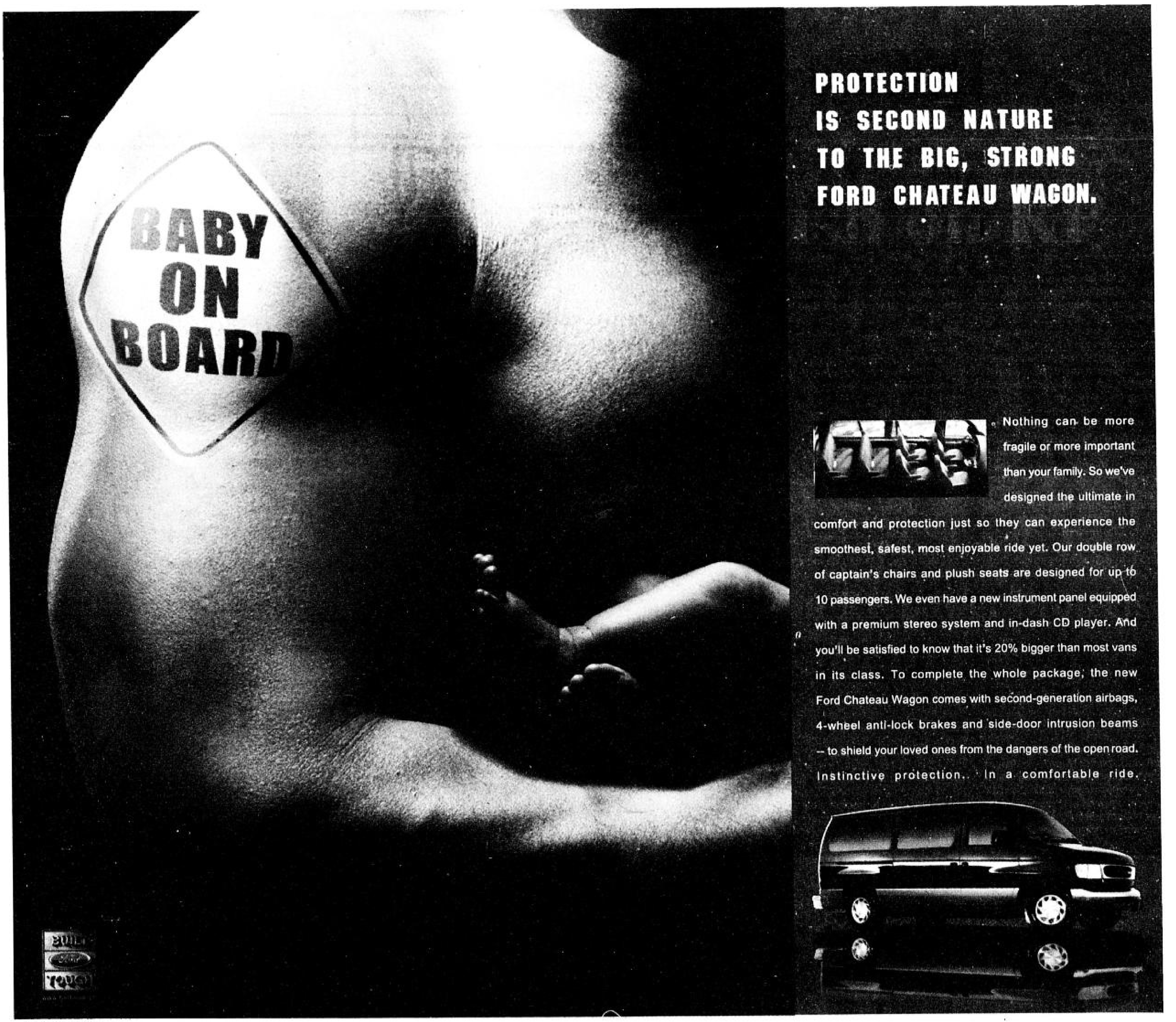
Yoshimasa declined to say whether Kansai and Kyusu would buy assets of National Power Corp. if and when privatization of the cash-strapped state firm pushed through.

However, he said the Japanese firms were "focusing on how to solve Napocor's privatization."

The official said he was not sure when the firms would come in, but said Kansai was making a feasibility study on the rehabilitation of the Ambuklao hydroelectric power plant.

He said the study was being funded by the Meti and that the Japanese government has allocated $1 million for similar studies.

Yoshimasa said Kyushu, in turn, was developing a Meti-funded micro-hydropower project in Palawan.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BREACH OF CONTRACT
Spanish firm sues San Miguel

By Doris C. Dumlao

CAMPOFRIO Alimentacion SA of Spain has sued food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. for hatching a deal with the Ayala group to acquire Pure Foods Corp., a competitor of their joint-venture company San Miguel Campocarne Corp. (SMCC).

The suit was filed at the London Chamber of Commerce yesterday, a few days after SMC sued Campofrio for refusing to honor its commitment to buy out its stake in their 50-50 percent processed meats joint venture SMCC.

But analysts said there was no stopping SMC from pursuing its acquisition of Pure Foods and that the legal battle with its joint-venture partner in SMCC would only delay the signing of a definitive agreement with the Ayalas.

Campofrio said in a statement that SMC had failed to uphold the terms of an agreement in 1991 that prevented either of the companies from entering into any deal that would directly compete with their joint venture SMCC.

The Spanish company said the deal being worked out with the Ayalas entailed a breach of contract because Pure Foods' main business was the production and sale of meat products.

"It is the wish and intention of the Campofrio group to reach an amicable solution with its partner and for that reason it has decided to place the issue in question in the hands of the London Chamber of Commerce," its statement said.

According to brokerage house ATR Kim-Eng Securities, there was now so much bad blood between SMC and Campofrio that an out-of-court settlement might no longer be possible.

"The working relationship with Campofrio seems to have deteriorated to a point where according to news reports Campofrio had refused requests by SMC for working capital advances, as operations were not profitable. Indeed there seem to have been long-standing irritants to the working relationship such that SMCC has not been able to make headway against market leader Pure Foods," ATR Kim Eng analyst Martin Enrile said.

Enrile noted that Pure Foods was in command of about 50 percent of the market in refrigerated processed meats and more than 20 percent in canned meats.

Mark Securities research head Manny Cruz said he believed that

SPANISH/ B5

RP debt yields drop on rate cut

YIELDS for Philippine debt papers dropped yesterday with the market taking the long-term view that borrowing rates will continue to decline following the latest 50-basis point rate cut by the central bank.

Traders said the market's preference shifted to long-term bonds and favored the two-, five- and seven-year papers.

"The market is very strong. The view is consistent that rates will continue to come down. The bids are very well on the two-, five-, and seven-year bonds," a trader from a foreign bank said.

In the secondary market, yields for Philippine Treasury bonds fell by an average of 20-basis points, a second trader said.

"There was a lot of interest in the five- and seven-year papers. The two-year was dealt at 12.15 percent, five-year at 13.5 percent and the seven-year at 13.875 percent," the trader said.

The Bangko Sentral decided to cut its key overnight rates by 50 basis points effective Friday, mirroring a reduction in US rates.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said more cuts were possible with high expectations that the US Federal Reserve would opt for further easing at or before its next policy board meeting on May 15, but stressed domestic factors, specially inflation, would dictate any move in its monetary policy.

The rate cut takes the bank's overnight borrowing rate to 10 percent and the overnight lending rate to 12.25 percent, the lowest since May 19, 2000.

The central bank said the latest inflation readings signaled a tapering trend in the second half of 2001.

Traders said they saw the market's euphoria over the latest rate cut to continue pushing rates lower at the government auction on Monday for P3 billion worth of treasury bills.

"Definitely, we see another decline by 25-30 basis points at the auction," another trader said. *Reuters*

Shares fall 2.4%

(From page B1)

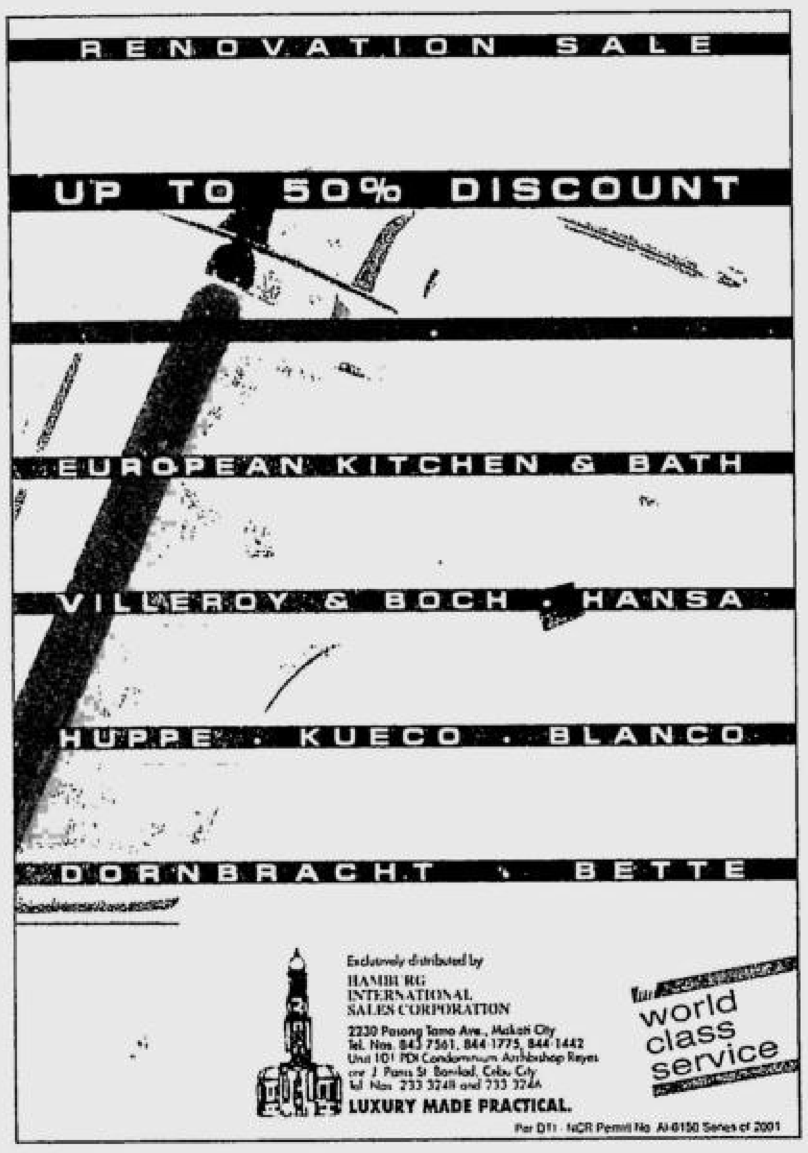
wherever they can," he said.

"Basically we were just waltzing with Dow Jones," added Astro del Castillo of A and A Securities Inc.

Even the decision by monetary authorities to cut key interest rates did not pull up the market as it had already been discounted, Del Castillo said.

Volume turnover rose to 531 million shares worth P486 million from 340.32 million shares worth P420.18 million on Thursday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., one of the few local firms listed in New York, helped weigh down the local market after it plunged in the United States. PLDT in the Philippines dropped P40 to P700. *AFP*



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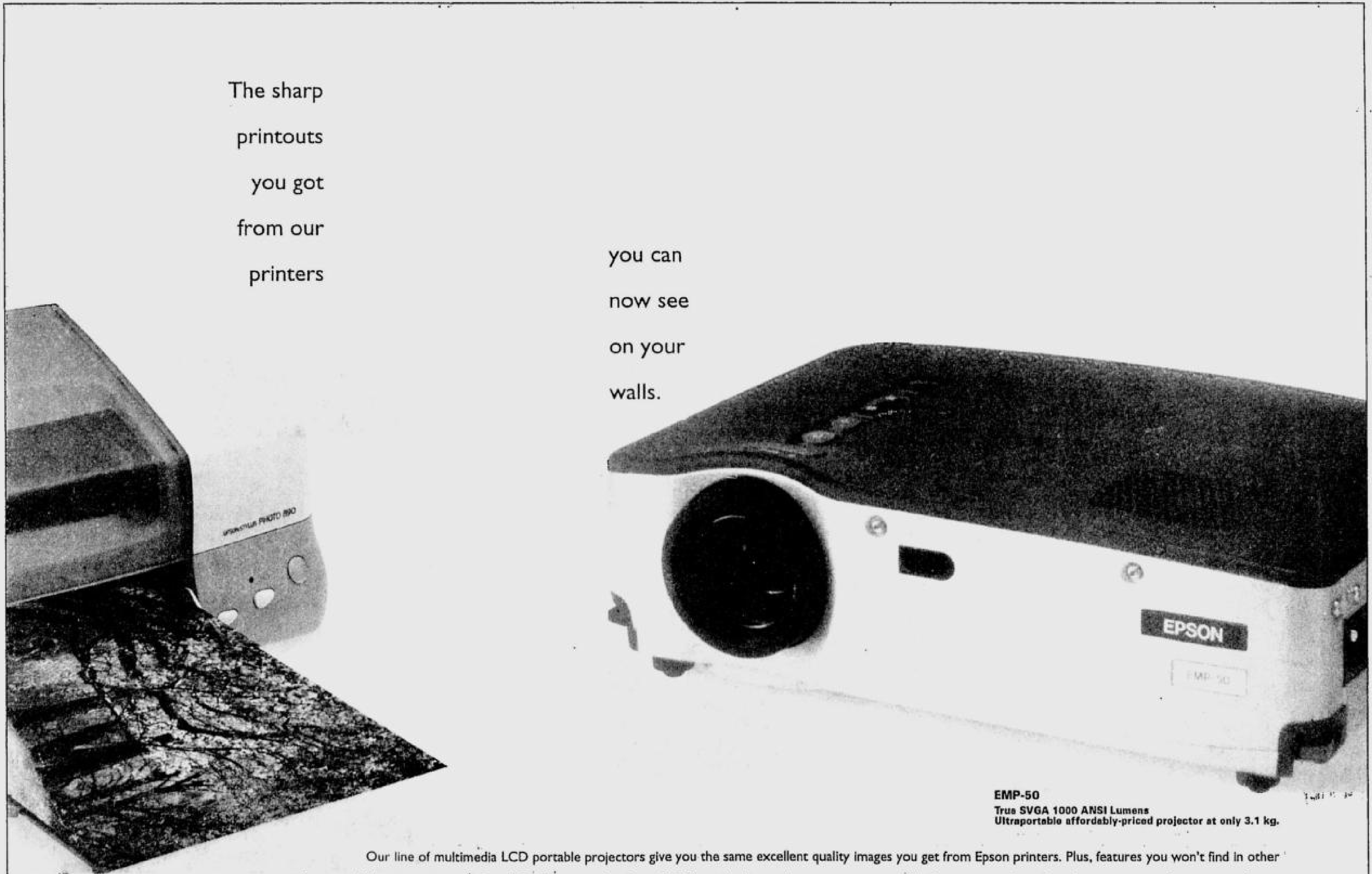
TCT NO./AREA (in sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 206056/208 m2/res. w/ impvts.	Corner Alfonso & Fermina Sts., Bgy. Poblacion, Makati City	P 21,904,000
2) PT-113705-707/374 m2/res. w/ impvts.	Corner of Red Palm & Green Palm Sts., SPS Subd., Bgy Malinao, Pasig City	3,400,000
3) 143216/63 m2/res. townhouse	L7 Blk. 2, Villa Aurora Townhomes, Sarmiento St., Better Living Subd., P'que City	1,021,201
4) 145224/367.50 m2/res. w/ impvt.	No. 13-15 Teheran St., Multinational Village, Phase II, Parañaque City	4,248,720
5) 146804/347 m2/res. w/ impvt.	No. 15 Calcutta St., BF Homes - Phase 3, Parañaque City	2,686,418
6) 110703/329 m2/res. w/ impvt	No. 61 A. Chocco cor. W. Vinsons Sts., BF Aselor Triangle, BF Homes, Phase 2, Parañaque City	3,180,975
7) V-53853/772 m2/ind'l/res.	107 Dulong Tanke St., Bgy. Malinta, Valenzuela City	4,848,568
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-7035-40/4,284 m2/res./comm'l.	Bonifacio St., between J. Garcia & P. Pagela Sts., Poblacion Tuao, Cagayan	6,966,900
2) T-7041-42/1,220 m2/res./comm'l.	R. Ballesteros & R. Ballesteros Ext. Sts., Bo. Alabug, Tuao, Cagayan	5,297,143
3) T-327882-909/8,796 m2/res. vacant lots	Guadalupe Subd., Lanang, Davao City	16,563,200
4) T-137698-99/33,109 & 10,000 m2/res./agri.	Bo. Iponan, Cagayan de Oro City	7,163,550

Complete description/specification of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties — MS. LITA O. VALENCIA/VP/LUCHIE M. CASTILLO/AO/MANNY R. APILADO/AO/CHARLIE D MACAZO/AO/KAREN U. RESARI/AO/TON-TON P. MALABUYO/AO - Tel. Nos. 817-8909/ 817-2822/840-7638/894-1910/840-7644/840-7920

Bidding will be held on April 3, 2001 at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in a sealed envelope. All sealed bids will be opened on scheduled bidding date as stated above. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.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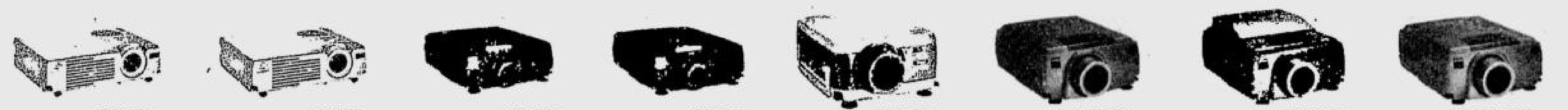

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EMP-5350
True SVGA 1500 ANSI Lumens
High-Brightness value desktop projector at only 6.2 kg.

EMP-7250
True XGA 1300 ANSI Lumens
High Brightness value desktop projector at only 6.2 kg.

EMP-5600
True SVGA 2200 ANSI Lumens
Ultra-Bright desktop projector at only 6.8 kg.

EMP-8100
True XGA 3200 ANSI Lumens
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EMP-9100
True SXGA 2400 ANSI Lumens
Ultra-Bright installation projector for real CAD users. Only 8.3 kg.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, March 23, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68.5	69.5	68.5	69	321,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	50	49.5	49.5	67,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	217	219	215	218	35,580
Philippine National Bank	46.5	47	46	47	102,400
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	30	29.5	30	10,200
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.5	9,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.36	145,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1200	1190	1200	5,400
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	820	820	800	805	4,540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	8,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	1,030,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	680	680	680	40
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	50,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	60,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	250,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	725	725	695	700	203,240
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.047	0.048	88,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	23,200
Manila Electric Co. B	55	55.5	54.5	55.5	362,200
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	4,331,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.87	0.9	340,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	15,030,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.99	0.99	0.95	0.95	10,010,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	77,810,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	5,640,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	177,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	34	34	33.5	34	36,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.7	1.56	1.7	130,000
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.08	321,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47	46.5	47	57,600
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	52.5	52	52	58,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	50,000
Ayala Corp.	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.2	2,062,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1,329,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	600
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	450,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	35,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	66,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12	12	12	12	3,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.38	2.4	6,847,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	3,040,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1.06	0.96	0.96	905,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2	2	1.96	1.96	14,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	7,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	76,300
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.08	2.08	45,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	16,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.69	0.7	3,080,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	1,320,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	580,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	6,540,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
Music Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	352,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.76	0.82	0.76	0.8	440,000
Pryce Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,200,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.25	10.5	197,200
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.38	2,150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.52	0.52	3,770,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	800,000
Manila Jockey Club	18.5	18 75	18.5	18.5	15,300
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	41	41	40.5	41	356,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	560,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.45	3.7	3.45	3.7	130,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	675	675	675	675	1,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0 0028	0.0028	0.0028	126,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.2	11,379,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	80,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.92	1.72	1.72	31,874,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	180,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	3,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	2,969,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.115	0.115	0.105	0.11	4,100,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	30,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	260,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,030,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	21,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	1,310,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	9,900,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	140,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	731,920	48,973,720.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	403,612,380	297,135,070.00
PRO	53,642,000	138,604,280.00
Mining	53,600,000	729,350.00
OIL	20,040,000	413,200.00
GRAND	531,626,300	485,855,620.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	594.00	DOWN 1.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,962.82	DOWN 44.24
PRO	518.07	DOWN 23.52
Mining	1,158.69	DOWN 19.64
OIL	1.53	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	703.21	DOWN 9.86
Composite	1,431.57	DOWN 34.66

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31:
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100; NO. OF TRADES: 2,433

CURRENCIES

Mar. 23, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.125366	1.000000	48.7970
Japan	Yen	0.009115	0.008100	0.3953
United Kingdom	Pound	1.599032	1.420900	69.3357
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144301	0.128226	6.2570
Switzerland	Franc	0.653068	0.580316	28.3177
Canada	Dollar	0.716155	0.636375	31.0532
Singapore	Dollar	0.629576	0.559441	27.2990
Australia	Dollar	0.553467	0.491811	23.9989
Bahrain	Dinar	2.985214	2.652661	129.4419
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.300090	0.266660	13.0122
Brunei	Dollar	0.628977	0.558909	27.2731
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025329	0.022507	1.0983
UAE	Dirham	0.306397	0.272264	13.2857
Korea	Won	0.000852	0.000757	0.0369
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.888600	43.3610
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.454334	22.1701
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135466	6.6103
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.403229	19.6764
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064577	3.1512
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022028	1.0749
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000459	0.0224
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149452	7.2928
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004432	0.2163
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005341	0.2606
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022028	1.0749
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.128289	55.0571

BIR orders stockbrokers to shift to new tax scheme

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has ordered stockbrokers to shift to the 7-percent gross receipts tax (GRT) instead of the 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) despite an appeal from the Philippine Stock Exchange to maintain the existing scheme.

In a memorandum to brokers yesterday, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia announced that after several discussions with the BIR, the latter ruled that brokers' commissions would now be subjected to the GRT starting April 2.

"This is also an indirect tax you may pass on to your clients," Garcia said.

As the GRT is paid on a quarterly basis, Garcia said the first payment of the 7-percent tax would be on July 25. The 10-percent VAT charges, on the other hand, should stop by March 30, the last trading day of March while the last VAT payment would be made on April 25.

Garcia also urged the brokers not to cancel their VAT registration as their other income such as dealers' gains, rental and miscellaneous fees would still be subjected to the 10-percent VAT.

The PSE, for its part, earlier proposed to the Department of Finance to continue subjecting its members to the 10-percent VAT instead of shifting to GRT during the interim period of two years contained in a bill approved by both chambers of Congress.

This developed as foreign stockbrokerage houses, in a position paper, noted that the issue of tax payments continued to be an "open-ended problem" for the industry, which has already been paying the VAT for six years prior to the passage of Republic Act 8761 in February last year.

RA 8761 deferred the imposition of VAT on services rendered by banks and financial institutions to Jan. 1, 2001.

The law created a lot of confusion because it ordered them to pay the 7-percent GRT instead of the VAT. However, it also required them, beginning Jan. 1, 2001, to discontinue paying the 7-percent GRT and revert to paying the 10-percent VAT.

To complicate things, another bill further deferring for two more years the imposition of the VAT on financial institutions, has been approved by both chambers of Congress and is now awaiting the President's signature. This means that the GRT will be in place during the interim period.

"Stockbrokers are in a quandary as to why they had been successfully implementing the VAT system for six years only to be told to discontinue the practice, and shift to another system (GRT) for only one year, and then, revert to the original system," the paper said.

The PSE, for its part, issued in May last year a memorandum instructing member-brokers to continue paying under the VAT mode pending a definitive ruling from the Bureau of Internal Revenue. While there were a few brokers who chose to pay the GRT outright in 2000 following the passage of RA 8761, majority of them continued to pay the VAT in 2000 in compliance with the PSE order.

With a new bill approved by the bicameral committee, the GRT will, however, be reinstated until 2003 with a retroactive effect from January 2001.

DISCLOSURES

EQUITABLE-PCI Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 17, 3 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine Floor, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati City.

* * *

MEDIAQUEST Holdings Inc. is having preliminary discussions with several potential strategic and financial investors led by **ePLDT Inc.** regarding the acquisition of a majority stake in **GMA Network Inc.**

* * *

THE REDUCTION by 10,000 **ABS-CBN Holdings Inc.** PDRs as represented by PDR certificate number 909 from the listed PDRs shall take effect on March 26. This brings the number of PDRs listed to a total of 267,296,500.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.** declared a P0.20 cash dividend per share to be given to stockholders on record as of April 10.

* * *

THE BOARD of **International Container Terminal Services Inc.** reset its annual stockholders' meeting from April 19 to May 10 due to the delay in the release of its audited consolidated financial statement.

* * *

BASIC Consolidated Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 25, at the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City.

* * *

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 24, 10 a.m., at the Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel Makati. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

San Miguel signs deal on purchase of Coke RP

FOOD and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. said yesterday it had signed a deal with Coca-Cola to jointly acquire Coca-Cola Philippines from Australia's Coca-Cola Amatil.

San Miguel said in a statement that the deal was valued at A$2.2 billion (about $1.1 billion).

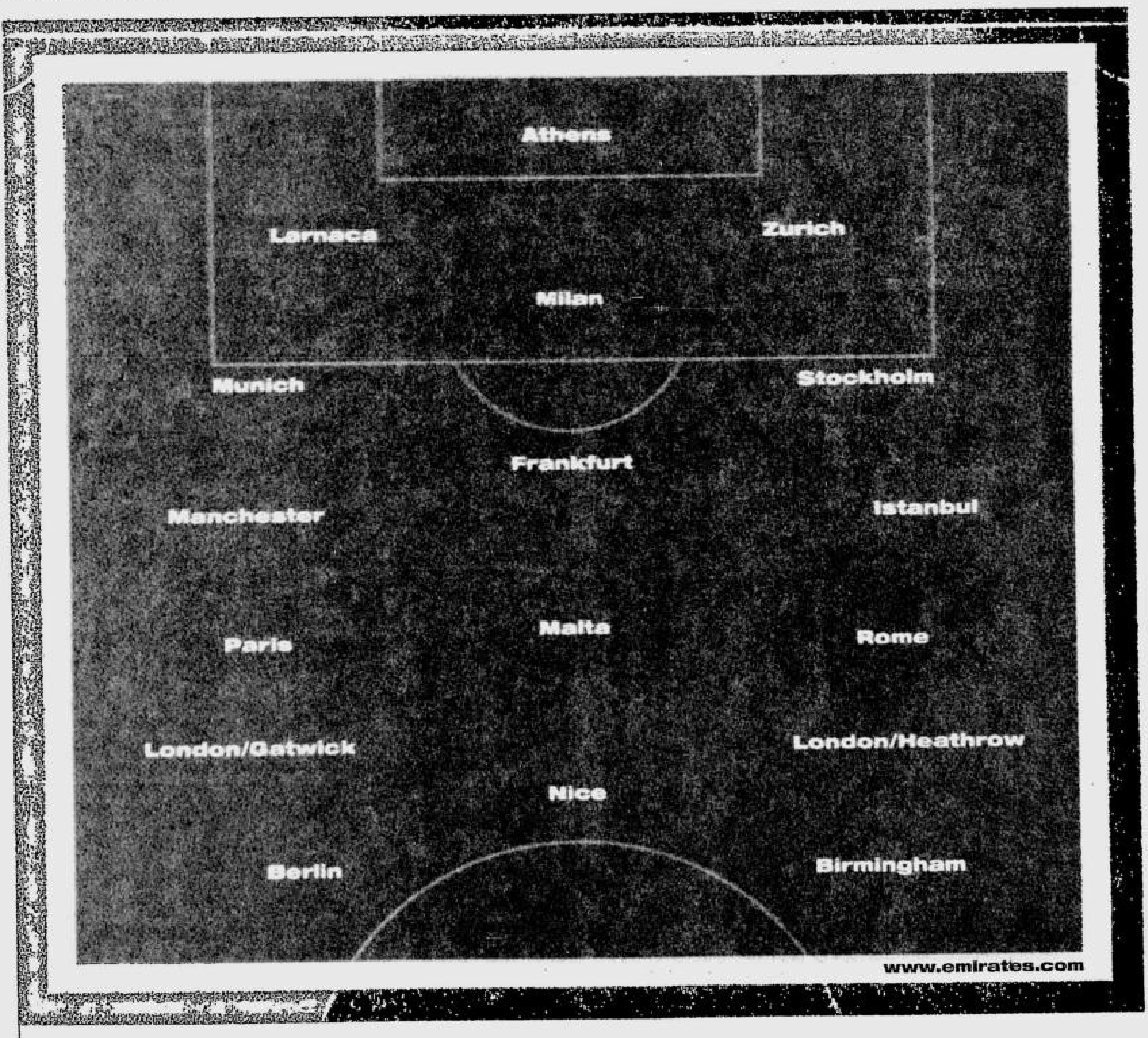
Under the terms of the agreement, San Miguel will acquire 65 percent of Coca-Cola Philippines in exchange for the cancellation of its 219.4 million shares in Amatil, valued at A$4.75 each.

Coca-Cola will own the remaining 35 percent in the Philippine bottling operations. San Miguel said it would retain full management control of Coca-Cola Philippines.

While the deal was first announced in February, San Miguel said it and Coca-Cola have now signed a "definitive agreement." However, it remains subject to approval by Amatil's minority shareholders.

Amatil's annual stockholder meeting is set for April 27.

"The acquisition represents a clear demonstration of our declared strategy of gaining operating control of our businesses," San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco said. "It will allow us to build on San Miguel's already strong revenue base and will become an additional source of growth in the future." *Reuters*



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People, Events & Products

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sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Webby awardee offers new platform for online advertisers

THE INTERNET Age has arrived and businesses that have not prepared for it can still do so via the introduction of ClickTheCity.com's online advertising packages.

ClickTheCity.com has introduced new ways for companies to reach their target market via its various online packages. It can provide companies the necessary business tools or solutions to help them make a strong presence felt on the Internet.

For companies that are still deciding what advertising platform to use—ClickTheCity.com is the best choice. Junnie Arreza, ClickTheCity.com manager explains, "What we offer are not just advertising packages, but also tools to help you reach your target market."

Other than to reach out to previous non-advertisers, ClickTheCity.com aims to provide companies who have advertised in other media such as newspapers, magazines, billboards and the Yellow Pages an alternative medium for them to reach their target market. It is a fact that the Internet has the advantage of providing accountable results of advertising efforts that can never be matched by any other medium. A purchase of 200,000 banner ads assures companies that it is served to 200,000 eyeballs.

ClickTheCity.com, awarded in the recent Philippine Web Awards as the best Internet site for services, travel, and mobile Internet, is now accepting advertisers. "If you have tried out listing in the Yellow Pages before, then having a Priority Listing in your business heading in ClickTheCity.com will indeed help your business. And companies with billboard or newspaper ads can now choose an advertising medium that will account for the audience who will see their creative ads via the ClickTheCity.com banner ads. That is indeed advertising money well spent," Arreza continues.

ClickTheCity.com is a part of the GetAsia Philippines network (www.getasia.com). Interested business owners can call up tel. no. (632) 752-5794 for appointments with ClickTheCity.com account managers, fax to (632) 752-5799, send e-mail inquiry to sales@clickthecity.com, or e-mail Junnie Arreza at junnie@legmanila.com.

CMAP
INDUCTION & OATHTAKING CEREMONY
March 01, 2001

CMAP INDUCTION

PDI Publisher Isagani M. Yambot (extreme left) inducts the new set of officers and directors of the Circulation Managers Association of the Philippines (CMAP) for 2001-2002 during the association's induction and oathtaking rites held recently. Shown in photo are (from left) Bien Baltazar, president; Lino Minor, vice president; Raul Perez, secretary; Dante Castro, treasurer; Gilbert Sison, auditor; Rose Fernando, PRO; Jun Rapues, Rendo Gamallo, Linda Villar, Jun Binegas and Rene R. Reinoso, directors.

CEO VISIT

Cecil F. Fleming, chief executive officer of BDO International, recently visited BDO Alba Romeo & Co. CPAs, its member firm in the Philippines. Photo shows (standing from left) Cora S. Hemandez, IT director of Alba Consulting; Cyr S. Arcilla, managing director of Alba Consulting; Douglas T. Ussher, partner; Antonio V. Cruz, partner; Cecil F. Fleming; Romeo C. Alba, chair and managing partner of BDO Arco; Donato P. Danao, partner; Angelita G. Yambao, partner; Miles P. Some, HR consulting and personnel director and Ruth W. Ah Hing, quality control group manager. Seated are, from left: Guia C. Viloria, Ruby R. Seballe, Letty C. Tagle, Erlinda A. Abrigo, all partners of BDO Arco, and Barbara Fleming.

HOPE FOR AMD PATIENTS

Novartis Ophthalmics recently introduced Verteporfin Therapy, new treatment for wet AMD. The inauguration of the first PDT/Verteporfin Center was made through the joint venture of Novartis Ophthalmics and Eye Referral Center. Gracing the event were eye specialists Dr. Manuel Agulto, executive director of Eye Referral Center; Dr. Romeo Espiritu, president of the Vitreoretina Society; and Dr. Ildefonso Chan of the Philippine Glaucoma Society. Imelda R. Marcos also graced the affair, as well as Novartis Ophthalmics executives headed by business unit head Ricky Rivera (left) and senior product manager Bemice Quiambao. The treatment is now available at Eye Referral Center, Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

Latest technology and equipment at food expo

DESPITE the present economic crisis, the food industry is still a thriving industry as its growth continues in the local and export market. The latest equipment and technologies on food production, processing, packaging and machinery have been presented to local entrepreneurs to modernize their trade.

The 10th AsiaFood Expo 2001, an international exposition on food processing, packaging, material handling and technology, will be held Sept. 5-8, 2001 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. To date, 80 percent of the exhibition space has already been reserved by foreign and local exhibitors who wish to gain a competitive edge in the growing market through a showcase of new machines and better technology. AsiaFood Expo, an indispensable event in the food and beverage industry, continues to bring in globally competitive and innovative technology and products.

The expo is will be held in conjunction with Food and Drinks Asia 2001, the 5th international exposition on specialty foods, delicatessen, confectionery, beverages, beers, wines and spirits, and Food Franchising 2001, the 5th international food franchising and business systems exposition.

Visitors and exhibitors can expect a gathering of the best minds in the food industry, and exchange notes on coping with a rapidly globalizing world. Companies involved in the food, beverage and food equipment businesses are invited to this important event. Call T.I.M.E. Inc. at 834-0085 to 86, fax 831-3828 or email time@skyinet.net. You can also browse www.tradeinfo.com.ph.

PHILIPS LAUNCHES ALBUM PROMO TOUR

Catch Pinoy pop sensation Maxine and hip boyband Wiseguys as they promote the Disney Pop Station Vol. 1. Featuring the hottest tracks from today's coolest performers, the album promo tour will be held at Odyssey XL, SM City North Edsa on Feb. 28, 2001 at 4 p.m. This event is sponsored by Philips Eargear, the hippest gear for your favorite music from Philips, one of the world's largest consumer electronics companies. Photo shows (seated, from left) singer Maxine, Philips CE general manager Tony Lim and Ody Tolentino. Standing (from left) Philips CE product specialist Nick Balce, product manager Lea Sabaot-Baterna and product manager Mark Sta. Maria.

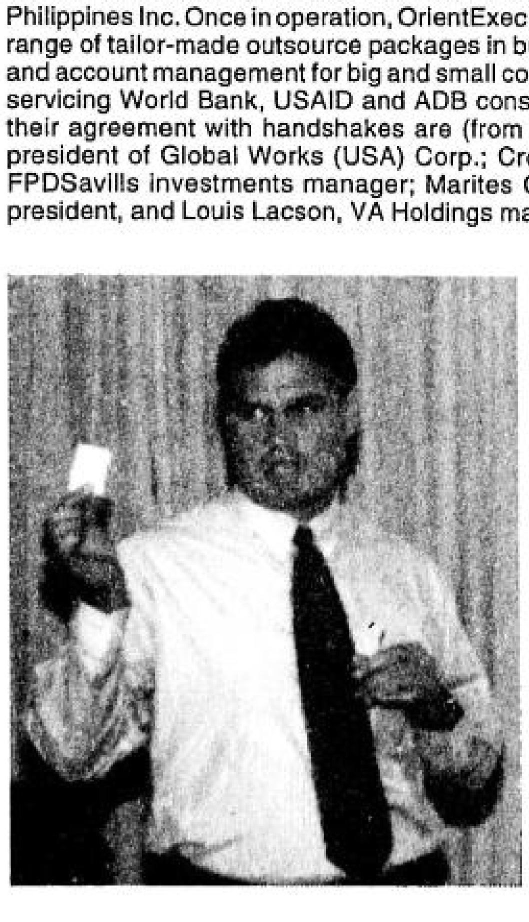
PHILIPPINE
MARKETING

PDI-PMA MOA

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Marketing Association recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the upcoming National Marketing Conference. Signing the agreement are Inquirer senior vice president for sales and marketing Renato B. Reinoso (left) and PMA president Jose Jesus F. Roces. Looking on are Inquirer advertising sales manager Kenny Nuyda (left) and National Marketing Conference director Cergen P. Go.

ORTIGAS EXECUTIVE CENTER ASSISTANCE

Scheduled to start operations next month, OrientExec Corporation – an executive management consultancy – has signed a three-year lease contract at the prestigious Taipan Place Condominium in the Ortigas central business district. The deal was concluded by FPDSavills Philippines Inc. Once in operation, OrientExec will provide a complete range of tailor-made outsource packages in business administration and account management for big and small corporations, particularly servicing World Bank, USAID and ADB consulting groups. Sealing their agreement with handshakes are (from left): Nicolas J. Allen, president of Global Works (USA) Corp.; Cromwell Oliver S. Dey, FPDSavills investments manager; Marites C. B. Lee, OrientExec president, and Louis Lacson, VA Holdings managing director.



TERMITE BUSTER TALKS

David Ouimette, Sentricon-Asia regional senior scientist of Dow Agro Sciences, gives an overview to the members of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) Makati Business District of how Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System works. The lecture also includes product benefits, system installation, and the biology of termites. The symposium was held recently in Makati City in cooperation with the Pest Control Firm Sanitech.

BITS Clips

Marian tour

This Magnificat Year, writer-book-author Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre has organized a Marian pilgrimage-tour. Highlights of this 19-day tour includes an audience with the Pope at St. Peter's Square in the Vatican, and a tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. For inquiries, call 815-4938; 815-6925, EasyCall 141-101758 or 0918-9159337.

MOA signing

A memorandum of agreement was signed Jan. 21 between Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance Co and Matsushita Company Employees' Union Group for the former to provide life insurance and hospitalization benefits to all Matsushita employees. The signing was done in Northwinds Hotel, Cebu City.

Better fit, better comfort

For more than 20 years, millions have made Sloggi into one of the best-selling branded briefs ever. Made of 95-percent cotton and 5-percent Lycra for freedom of movement, Sloggi provides a perfectly smooth fit that remains through time. Sloggi has the Lycra thread completely covered with cotton, a process known as core-spun. This February, Sloggi introduced a new line of contemporary designs: the Tanga, Hikini and Waist.

Court locator now available

The "2001 Court-Locator Daily Calendar" is now off the press. Judge Vicente S. Pulido, project director and immediate past president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, says the 300-page court locator contains the latest appointment to the judiciary in the 13 Judicial Regions, including NCR and Prosecutions Office as of January 31. Copies of the court locator are available at the Alemars-Central Bookstore, Rex Bookstore, La Solidaridad Bookstore and Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC and MTC in the NCR.

Identifying wood

The Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) of the DOST, Forestry Campus College, Laguna, will conduct a training course on wood identification and pole maintenance on March 26 to 30 at the Training and Demonstration Center, FPRDI. The course is open to all wood pole users. For inquiries please contact Emelyne Cortiguerra and Jhey Roxas of FPRDI at (049) 536-2377; 536-2586; 536-2360 or fax (049) 536-3630 or cell no. 0919-2804349.

Brokers' continuing education

The Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP)-Pasig Chapter will conduct its 1st Continuing Education Program (CEP) for brokers today and March 31, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rack's Restaurant, El Pueblo, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Speakers from government and private sectors are invited to share their views. Call Romualdo A. Judan at 641-7882, and Billie Pilar at 633-7601 to 03.

Mulatto at Nth Degree

Citylite 88.3 presents CityLite Live! Sporty Nites featuring Mulatto at Nth Degree Bar & Billiards in Adriatico Street, Malate at 9:30 p.m. on March 28. For information, call 631-8801.

Villar guest speaker

Former House Speaker Manuel B. Villar will be the guest of honor and speaker on March 25 at 5 p.m. during the 9th commencement exercises of Indiana Aerospace University (IAU) in Mactan, Cebu. Villar will also inaugurate the IAU College of Law and St. Therese of Lisieux. The 10-hectare IAU is the biggest aerospace university in Asia.

Coaches academy

The Center for Pop Music Philippines (CPMP) will hold its 11th Coaches Academy on today until March 29 at the Aring-ao Hall, Teachers Camp, Baguio City. The CPMP will offer free four-day voice lessons in Baguio City. Audition will be held today at 4 p.m. at the Aring-ao Hall. Applicants must bring their minus-one tapes. The CPMP also holds a free concert featuring its coaches on March 26 and 27, 8 p.m. at Albert Hall of the Teachers' Camp. Meanwhile, the CPMP's summer classes enrollment is now open. Call 727-5293 or 721-0714 or 411-7310.

Enhance negotiating power

Is "real" negotiating power the ability to influence others, assuming they know the truth? To know the answer and to enhance your negotiating power, Edson & Co. will be sponsoring a 2-day Harvard Negotiation Workshop March 29-30 at Albergus 6750. For inquiries call 303-0015 or email edson&co@asia.com.

Summer fun in Baguio

On March 26 to 30, CJH Development Corp. holds it first Children's Summer Camp. Open to high school students, camping will cover workshops on environment and the arts. On April 1 to 15, a summer fun fair will be held at Scout Hill. For more info, call the Camp John Hay Marketing and Public Relations office at (074) 442-7902 to 08.

SUPPORT FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

Tony Melville (left), deputy head of Mission of the Australian Embassy in Manila, and Eduardo Gonzalez (center), president of the Development Academy of the Philippines, exchange copies of the agreements on programs to be funded by the Australian government, through the Australian Agency for International Development. The agreements cover the production of a resource manual on local revenue generation and resource mobilization and the development of performance indicators and standards for development administration.

BSP, PDIC extend anew maturity of loan to PNB

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. have extended by another six months the maturity of the P25 billion in emergency loan granted to Philippine National Bank.

This came after the BSP scrapped a dacion en pago arrangement with the bank.

The loan, which was obtained on Oct. 6, was supposed to fall due on Jan. 4 but it was rolled over by the BSP and the PDIC to April 4.

"Our loan to PNB (P15 billion) will be rolled over by another 180 days pending the completion of the bank's rehabilitation plan," said BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

Reyes said the Monetary Board automatically extended the loan even without a request from PNB.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said the state-owned bank insurer also extended (the payment schedule) of its P10-billion share in the emergency loan. "We also extended the loan because it has to be folded into the rehabilitation plan."

The BSP official said the loan would be priced at prevailing market rates.

Reyes said the collection of the loan would be pursued aggressively once the committee composed of the BSP, the PDIC and the Department of Finance has finalized the rehabilitation plan and the terms of the joint sale of the holdings in the bank of the government and taipan Lucio Tan.

He said the results of the audit conducted by PriceWaterhouse Coopers would also be considered in drafting a new rehabilitation plan for PNB.

"Based on the report of the committee and the audit of PriceWaterhouse, we will draw up scenarios for the loan collection," said the BSP official.

Reyes said the committee had agreed to drop the payment-in-kind arrangement for the central bank's P15-billion exposure in PNB.

PNB had wanted to settle P10 billion of its obligations with the BSP through a dacion en pago involving its Financial Center in Roxas Boulevard. It intended to pay the remaining P5 billion over an eight-year period.

PNB secured a P25-billion emergency loan from the PDIC and the BSP in early October due to its liquidity problems.

The loan, one of the biggest granted by the BSP and the PDIC, was branded by some quarters as a crony deal.

PNB claimed it experienced heavy withdrawals from the last week of September to early October. However, its claims were contested by banking industry analysts who alleged that the heavy withdrawals were made by a few depositors with big stakes in the bank.

Tan had pumped in P10 billion into PNB in early October giving him 67-percent control of the bank, from the previous level of 46 percent. The government's share was diluted from 30.4 percent to 16 percent after it waived its rights during a stock rights offering in September.

The BSP and the PDIC were forced to rescue PNB even if the government stake was down to about 16 percent since the bank was holding P42 billion in insured deposits, P33 billion in government deposits, and P6 billion of the state's remaining equity.

RP found uncooperative in moves vs laundering

A US treasury department official says the Philippines and three other countries—Russia, Lebanon and Nauru—have shown little progress toward increasing cooperation with a multilateral initiative against money laundering.

In his March 6 testimony before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Joseph Myers, acting deputy assistant Treasury secretary, said the countries participating in the initiative, called the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), would consider in June what actions to take against these countries.

At that meeting, he said, FATF members might list non-cooperative jurisdictions other than the 15 it listed in June 2000.

Myers said some of those 15 jurisdictions have responded to FATF warnings by enacting changes in law, regulation and practice to halt support for money laundering; he listed those as the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands, Israel, Liechtenstein and Panama.

Myers' testimony came on the third and final day of hearings by the subcommittee following publication of a report prepared by the subcommittee's Democratic minority staff on money laundering.

That report described how many legitimate US banks offered legitimate services called correspondent banking in a way that allowed foreign offshore banks and shell banks to launder money from drug trafficking, bribery and financial scams.

Myers said the US government has accomplished some gains in the expanded attack on money laundering, but emphasized the challenges remaining.

AGNP buying 40% of ETPI

AGN Philippines Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Australian Gigahertz Network Pty. Ltd. of Australia, yesterday announced it was buying Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc.'s 40-percent stake in Easter Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

AGNP, in a statement yesterday, said it concluded the conditional agreement governing its purchase of the Class B ETPI shares at $20 million. The amount, it said, was 11 percent more than what Aerocom paid when it bought the shares formerly held by Cable & Wireless Plc.

In exercising its right of first refusal, Aerocom blocked the bid of Digital Telecommunication Phils. Inc. (Digitel) to acquire the 40-percent stake in ETPI.

Aerocom deemed the Australian Gigahertz Network and their Filipino partners made a better alternative for ETPI and the Filipino market since the partnership could ensure that ETPI would remain competitive. The move, it added, was also aimed at avoiding the possibility of dominant telecom players monopolizing the market through the acquisition of their competitors.

AGNP also acknowledged recent reports that one of its Filipino partners, CPR Philippines Inc., had entered into a conditional sale agreement with Smart Communications Inc. to acquire Smart's 9.8-percent stake in ETPI

With the planned purchase by PRN Philippines Inc., a Filipino firm allied with AGN, of a 17.7-percent stake in ETPI, "the alliance of AGNP, CPR and PRN will control 67.5 percent of ETPI," the statement said.

PRN had also signed earlier a conditional agreement for the 17.7-percent stake in ETPI.

This is considered a strategic move by an investor group which has major plans for the corporation.

Palace OKs rice imports

THE NATIONAL Food Authority said yesterday President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved its recommendation to negotiate with foreign governments for the importation of its remaining 150,000 tons of rice requirement.

"I have the go-ahead signal," NFA administrator Anthony Abad told reporters.

Abad also said his office had asked foreign governments to submit their best prices, which would have to be better than the price submitted by Thailand at the March 9 tender for the supply of another 150,000 tons of rice.

At the tender, the best offers came from Thailand at $145.35 per ton C&F payable 180 days after shipment of grain. The cash price per ton was $144.45.

Thailand was not among the foreign governments that responded to the NFA's initial request for fresh offers. Abad did not say which countries had submitted new offers.

"We may have to go to them (Thailand) if none of the parties can improve the offer," he said. *Reuters*

Spanish

(From page B2)

the Campofrio suit notwithstanding, SMC's acquisition of Pure Foods was almost a done deal.

As to share prices, he said a possible downside resulting from the lawsuit was minimal as SMC shares have already been trading in a lethargic mode since the start of the year. But once the market recovers, he said the legal battle might limit the upside of SMC shares.

Meanwhile, the lawsuit earlier filed by SMC cited Campofrio's refusal to honor its commitment to buy out its stake in SMCC.

The joint venture agreement provides that should either partner offer to sell out to the other, the latter has the option to make the same offer for the same amount to the first party and that party is bound to accept.

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EU ministers reach deal on financial reforms

STOCKHOLM—Pressed by the imminent arrival of euro cash, European Union ministers agreed Thursday on a sweeping plan to begin integrating Europe's fragmented financial services market with the aim of making European businesses more competitive.

Years in the drafting, adoption of the plan was held up for days as finance ministers haggled over fine print that could determine who would have the final say over new EU-wide securities market regulations.

A late-night compromise Thursday allows the plan to be presented at a summit Friday of the 15 EU leaders, who were expected to adopt it.

"This good news insures that European industry and commerce as a whole will have easier access to cheaper investment capital for innovation and the creation of jobs," EU Internal Market Commission Frits Bolkestein said at a news conference.

Earlier, the summit host, Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson, had warned that the threat to European growth posed by the economic slowdown in the United States and Japan made pushing through long-delayed structural reforms "more important than ever."

The main sticking point to the securities market proposal involved setting up a fast-track process to allow new rules to be enacted in months instead of the usual years. *AP*

US lead indicators drop 0.2% but no economic recession yet

NEW YORK—Although a key gauge of economic activity fell 0.2 percent in February, the US economy so far has avoided slipping into a recession, the Conference Board said Thursday.

The New York-based private research group said its Index of Leading Economic Indicators decreased to 108.8 last month after increasing a revised 0.5 percent in January.

While the leading index declined in four of the last five months, it has not fallen enough to signal a recession, the group said.

Nonetheless, the Conference Board provided little encouragement that the economy would rebound any time soon.

"The Leading Economic Index suggests that this period of slower growth will probably continue for the next few months," said Ken Goldstein, economist for the Conference Board.

Other economists agreed, saying the report comes as no surprise and that it simply confirms that the economy is weak.

"The Leading Economic Index is basically telling us what we already know," said Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch. "Despite the declines in the index, the economy is growing, although very slowly."

The group originally said that the leading indicator index had dropped 0.3 percent in February, but later issued a statement revising the decline. Goldstein said the number was revised to include end-of-month consumer sentiment data from the University of Michigan, instead of preliminary Michigan data that included in the Conference Board's first release Thursday.

With the exception of January, when the indicators edged higher following an increase in business activity, the index has fallen in recent months.

As such, it has served as a precise measure of what lies ahead for the economy, said Hugh A. Johnson, chief investment strategist and chief economist at First Albany Corp.

"(The Conference Board) has indicated the decline could signal a slowdown or the growth would slow to a much more moderate pace," he said. "That's exactly what it has been signaling and that's exactly what has been the outcome."

Steinberg predicted that the economy wouldn't start picking up until the end of the year. He added that the Federal Reserve would intervene to stave off a recession, as it did earlier this week.

On Tuesday, the Fed slashed interest rates again, the third half-point reduction since January. But the decrease disappointed investors who believed that a more aggressive 0.75-point reduction was needed to boost the slowing economy and corporate profits. *AP*

Deflation threatens HK status

HONG KONG—Further weakening of the Japanese yen will keep pressure on consumer prices in Hong Kong this year, seriously undermining the territory's safe haven status, according to investment bank ING Barings.

"Hong Kong's safe haven status derives from its low exposure to exports, lack of exchange rate risk and immediate pass-through of US interest rates. Deflation seriously undermines these advantages," ING said in a note to clients.

The note was issued after Hong Kong reported late on Thursday afternoon that consumer prices fell more than anticipated in February, highlighting growing fears that the territory was recovering from the Asian 1997/98 financial crisis more slowly than expected.

Hong Kong last registered inflation in October 1998.

ING said further yen weakness would trigger imported deflation for Hong Kong, China, and Malaysia, whose currencies are tightly reined to the US dollar.

"Apart from the 'hard peg' economies . . . every regional currency is at risk from a depreciating Japanese yen. Investors should expect these to hit levels not seen since the 1998 financial crisis," it said.

ING has forecast the yen will hit 129 per US dollar at end-2001.

"Hong Kong is most at risk from the deflationary shock that region-wide currency depreciations would deliver," ING said.

ING Barings has turned increasingly bearish over Hong Kong in recent weeks, cutting its 12-month target for the Hang Seng stock index to just 12,000 points from 18,000 points previously.

The HSI was recently down 1.09 percent at 12,483.93 points.

Though Hong Kong's economy grew 10.5 percent in real terms in 2000 on the back of surging exports, nominal growth has lagged behind amid deflation and consumer demand has remained weak.

Imported deflation

Depreciation in regional currencies would lower the prices of everything Hong Kong imports from Asia, ING said, adding that it had revised its forecast that inflation would return to Hong Kong this year. *Reuters*

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Do You Call It Investment Or Home?

You already own several homes. And quite a few investments.

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7TH POST-WAR INDUSTRY FAILURE

Japan's 106-year-old insurer collapses

TOKYO—The mid-sized Tokyo Mutual Life Insurance Co. collapsed yesterday, the victim of a stock market slump and financial crisis, to become the seventh postwar failure in Japan's life assurance industry.

The withdrawal of support from leading creditor Daiwa Bank Ltd. dealt the final blow to the 106-year-old insurer, after depressed share prices had destroyed the value of its investments and policyholders fled.

Tokyo Mutual said it had filed for rehabilitation with the Tokyo District Court and would continue the overseas hunt for a white knight.

The insurer had been hoping for a 30-billion yen ($244-million) injection from its main bank to ensure its survival as it sought a foreign capital tie-up, said outgoing company president Kenichi Nakamura.

"But yesterday we received a call from a Daiwa executive who told us that they could not release the money to us," said Nakamura, who submitted his resignation after the decision to seek court protection.

"The call from Daiwa was a complete surprise. We had considered various scenarios, but this did not enter into our thoughts," the departing president told a news conference.

Tokyo Mutual had reeled from a decade of rock-bottom interest rates in Japan, which prevented it from making enough money to pay high yields guaranteed to its policyholders in the 1980s "bubble economy" years.

"Also, falls in stock prices expanded our latent losses," Nakamura said.

The spectacular failures of two life insurers last October—Kyoei Life and Chiyoda Mutual—"eroded the trust of customers in our company, and many of our clients cancelled their contracts."

Daiwa Bank was right to pull the plug on Tokyo Mutual and there was no systemic risk to the financial sector, said financial affairs state minister Hakuo Yanagisawa.

"Daiwa's final decision was justified," he told reporters.

"Although the stock market plunge creates a severe management environment for financial institutions, we do not imagine further financial bankruptcies," Yanagisawa said.

"We will maintain our policy that financial institutions that have no reason to exist due to management failure should leave the center stage."

Tokyo Mutual said its total liabilities amounted to 980.2 billion yen ($8 billion), far less than the 4.53 trillion yen debt left by Kyoei Life when it became Japan's biggest corporate collapse since World War II.

Daiwa Bank, which last week strongly denied market rumors that it was close to collapse, said it would post a net loss of 18 billion yen in the fiscal year ending on March 31 after extending 32 billion yen in aid to Tokyo Mutual.

The banks in turn have suffered from the collapse of the bubble economy, which left them with a mountain of bad loans. They have responded with a wave of mergers and alliances, with Daiwa the only major lender not in a tie-up.

The Bank of Japan on Monday staged a policy U-turn and returned to zero interest rates, intensifying pressure on the banks to speed up cancellations of their problem loans and potentially exacerbating the insurers' misery.

"If the economy stays the way it is, not only life assurers but also other financial institutions such as brokerages and banks will run the risk of failure," said Japan Research Institute senior economist Hidehiko Fujii.

"Even after the bursting of the bubble, the tradition lived on to help financially weak affiliates. But now weak companies are on their own," he added.

Japanese financial markets shrugged off Tokyo Mutual's collapse.

Fuji Bank currency dealer Hideyuki Tsukamoto said it caused investors little consternation "as sadly enough, the market has already become accustomed to Japanese corporate failures." *AFP*

Hong Kong export prospects seem dim

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's February exports are expected to be lifted by the distortion effect of the Chinese Lunar New Year but will suffer in the medium-term as the global economy grinds lower.

The government is due to release the data at around 4:15 p.m. on Monday.

"We already saw the new year factor trigger a moderate decline in exports last month and we will see this reverse in February," said Citibank senior economist Joe Lo.

"Though we will see a positive number this month, total exports will remain quite weak in the coming months until US economic prospects show some signs of improving," he said, adding he expected exports to grow an average 5 percent in 2001.

Private economists surveyed by Reuters gave a wide range of forecasts for total exports growth but agreed the year-on-year number would be a marked improvement from the previous two months.

Chinese New Year fell in January this year compared to February last year, distorting the territory's economic data.

Total exports growth contracted 0.4 percent on the year in January after rising 4.6 percent in December.

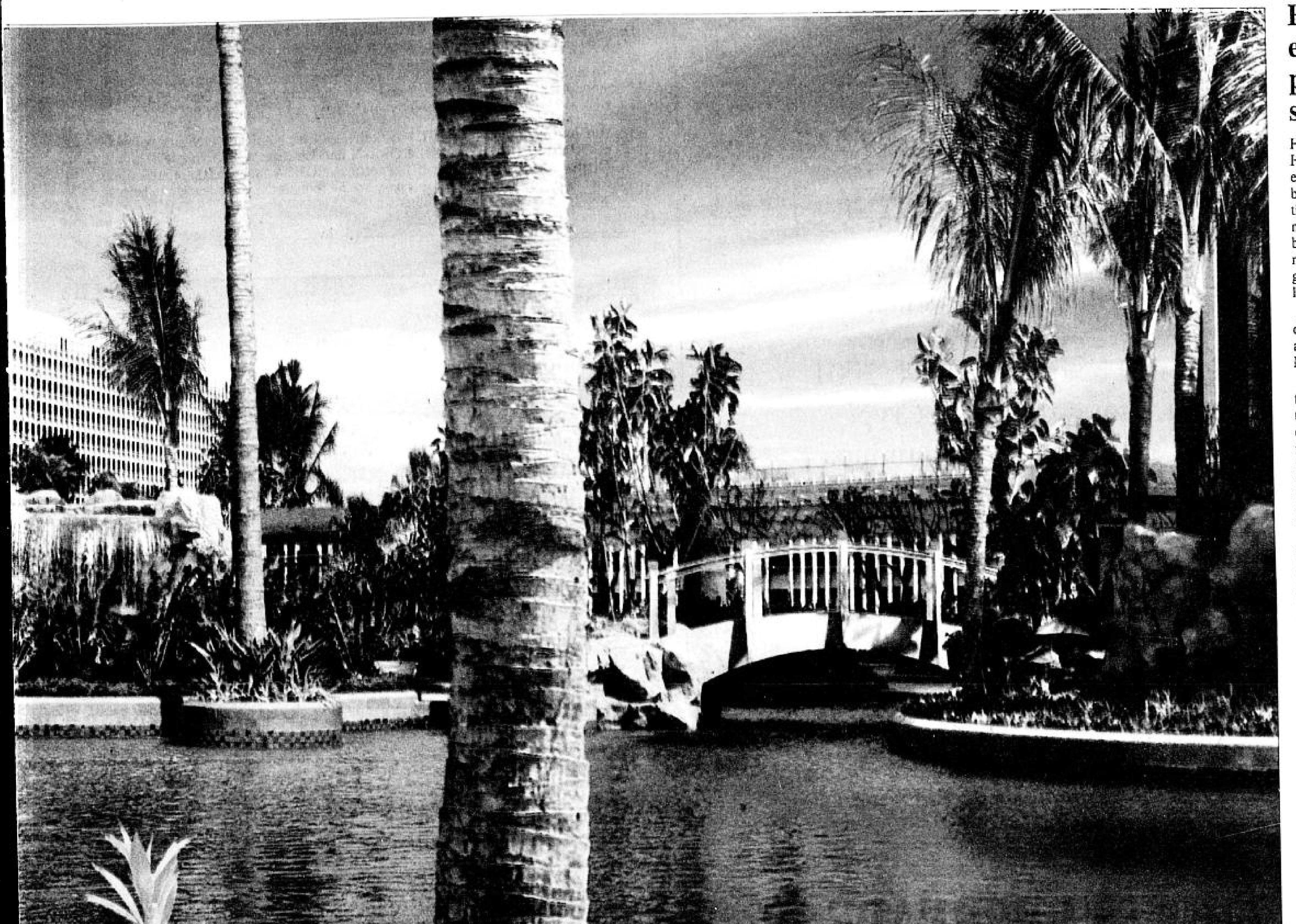
The effects of shrinking global demand has already been pronounced given Hong Kong's total exports enjoyed double-digit year-on-year increases in each quarter of 2000 and rose 17 percent in real terms for the full-year.

Total exports were likely to have risen just 3.7 percent year-on-year when combining the first two months of the year, according to Hang Seng senior economist Henry Tsoi.

Dao Heng bank gave a particularly high forecast for total exports, citing the Lunar New Year effect and the robust trade performance of mainland China.

Mainland exports rose 14.5 percent on the year in the first two months of 2001 after surging 27.8 percent on the year in 2000.

Reuters



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The Board of Directors of

Alabang Country Club Inc.

announces the untimely demise of

Narciso C. Monteiro

Former Club President

On March 21, 2001 at the age of 62.

His remains lie in state at the
Jesus the Divine Healer Chapel
Tahanan Village, Parañaque.

Interment will be on March 24, 2001
at the St. James the Great Crypt
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa
after the 3:00 p.m. Requiem Mass.

*"And I will raise him up on eagle's wings,
bear him on the breath of dawn, make him to shine like the sun
and hold him in the palm of My hand."*

***"Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,
It remains just the grain of wheat. But if it dies,
it produces much fruit."***
John 12:24

JOSE BAUTISTA BERNABE JR.

*Peacefully joined his Creator
on the 22nd day of March 2001at the age of 69.*

His bereaved wife **CORAZON**; children **Anna** and **Zenon Regalado**, **Marissa** and **Ike Pastor**, **Joey** and **Celia**, **Ramon**, **Rafael** and **Eileen**, **Minnie** and **Norman Macasaet**, **Jay** and **Neng**; sister **Felisa**; brothers **Ben** and **Eusebio** and in-laws; his loving grandchildren **Angela**, **Camille** and **Monique**; **Celine**, **Chino**, **Ina** and **Mari**; **Niko**, **Maan**, **Magi** and **Maxi**; **Rano**, **Colleen**, **Maki** and **Katerina**; **Paulo**, **Javi** and **Therese**, **Marielle** and **Diego**.

We, his family request that those whose lives have been touched by our beloved ***DADDY*** to pray for the eternal repose of his soul as he is born into Eternal Life.

His mortal remains has been cremated yesterday, March 23, 2001 to rejoin Mother Earth.

A special gathering of relatives and friends has been arranged today, March 24, 2001 at the Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will follow on Sunday, March 25, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

**Forever In Our Hearts
On the Second Death Anniversary
of our beloved**

PATRICIA G. DEL ROSARIO

*of Sta. Isabel, Malolos, Bulacan and Quezon City
who joined her Creator on 25 March 1999.*

Masses will be offered tomorrow in her memory at the following churches:

5:00 AM	**Sta. Isabel Parish**, Sta. Isabel, Malolos, Bulacan
6:00 AM	**Malolos Cathedral**, Malolos, Bulacan
7:00 AM	**Christ the King Seminary**, Rodriguez Boulevard, Quezon City
7:30 AM	**Barasoain Church**, Malolos, Bulacan
8:00 AM	**Carmel Shrine**, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City
9:00 AM	**St. Joseph Church**, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City
4:30 PM	**BF Homes**, Capitol Site, Quezon City
5:00 PM	**Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church**, Project 4, Quezon City
6:00 PM	**Sto. Domingo Church**, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City

To all of you who blessed HER with love, prayers and friendship, and in the end stood by us to ease the pain, Thank You and may Almighty God bless you as richly as we have been blessed by you.

Her loving spouse **CANDIDO**; their children **NAPOLEON** and **Myrna**; **CANDIDO, JR.** and **Tessie**; **ROMAN** and **Louttie**; **AMALIA**; **JESUS** and **Orpha**; **CANDIDO, III** and **Bernette**; **ANGELA** and **JOJO**, relatives and friends include all of you in our prayers and request the pious readers to help us pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

---

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures He gives me repose;
beside restful waters He leads me; He
refreshes my soul."* Psalm 23:1-2

ENGR. ROGELIO DE LA ROSA, GE, CE, SE, EC, MPA, PE, MP, EP

**of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija and Caloocan City
Former Chairman of the Board of Geodetic Engineering
(Widower of the late Engr. Trinidad Escarda de la Rosa)**

peacefully joined the Creator on March 21, 2001 at the age of 66.

His bereaved children **Eileen** and **Verman Diego** and **Jasper**; brother **Andy de la Rosa**; sisters and brothers-in-law **Rosie Bernal**, **Puring de la Rosa**, **Luz** and **Hector Ramos**, **Zenaida** and **Engr. Rolando Perez**, **Lily** and **Mike Rivera**, and **Corazon** and **Dr. Carlos Las Marias**; grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment will follow after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass on Tuesday, March 27, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City.

Raul de Leon Chacon

September 23, 1925 - March 17, 2001, 75 years old

His beloved wife **Carrie Flores Chacon**; son **Eric**; daughters **Christine** and **Myrna**; sons-in-law **Vince Marcill** and **Stan Deeke**; sons **Alex**, **Edgar**, **Cris**, **Ronald** and **Raul, Jr.**; grandchildren **Alma**, **Joel**, **Michelle**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 24, 2001, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the 1:30 PM Holy Mass.

---

*"My soul find rest to God alone from Him
comes my salvation."*
Psalms 62:2

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

TEOFILO MEDRANO DE GUIA

**Retired Judge
1909-2001**

*Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness
of the Lord on the 22nd day of March 2001 at the age of 91.*

His loving wife **Feling**; children and children-in-law **Chitt** and **Alex**, **Blanca**, **Joni** and **Bebs**; grandchildren **Theo**, **Yayo**, **Ada**, **Karl**, **Teofilo Jr.**, and **Johnber**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel at Guadalupe, Makati and will be transferred to Funeraria Filipinas, Bauan, Batangas on March 25, 2001 morning.

Interment will be on Wednesday, March 28, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Bauan, Batangas.

CAPT. HENRYFORD C. MONFIERO SR.

of Malabon, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 22, 2001 at the age of 56.

His loving wife **Rebecca**; children **Eric** and **Malu**, **Badong** and **Nella**, **Hazel** and **Onad**, **Bugoy** and **Mita**, **Sherilyn** and **Collin**, **Yoyo**, **Shullen**, **Ochie**, **Paolo**, **Chuckoy** and **Michelle**; together with grandchildren, sisters, brothers, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Home (Malabon).

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 27, 2001
at the Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 911-6001 Local 4412 & 4454
E-mail Address: hqlogcen@i-next.net
AFP Website: http://www.armedforces.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The AFP Logistics Center through the 72-100 Reimbursable Fund Unit hereby invites interested manufacturers to provide the following Combat Clothing and Individual Equipment (CCIE) for Stock Replenishment:

ITB Nr.	Qty.	Nomenclature	Specification
0.1	1,500	Boots, Combat HW	QM Spec. Nr. US Mil-B 43154K (Adapted) Amendment 5 dtd 06 August 1993
0.2	3,000	Suit, Fatigue, OD with Cap	QM Spec Nr C-555FRW, Amendment Nr. 1 dtd 01 September 1992

Inquiries for the details and particulars on bid documents, specifications, date and time of bidding shall be provided during office hours at the Reimbursable Fund Unit (72-100). Tel. No. 911-6001 local 4412 or 4454. Closing date for submission of requirements for eligibility is on **April 11, 2001**.

Pre-bid Conference	**April 03, 2001**, 9:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bid Proposals	**April 17, 2001**, 9:00 AM

Venue:

Daza Park Pavillion, AFP Logistics Center
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

THE AFP LOGISTICS CENTER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY FORMALITY AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO THE LOWEST CALCULATED RESPONSIVE BID AS DETERMINED BY THE AFPLC BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR CCIE.

(Sgd.) **COLONEL REYNALDO S. RAMIREZ (GSC) PAF**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for CCIE

(PDI -- March 23 & 24, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100. Philippines * Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for one (1) unit:

a.) Cardiovascular X-ray System b.) Mobile C-arm X-ray w/ digital imaging, vascular package & accessories. c.) Combined Cardiac & Peripheral CV X-ray System

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Article of Incorporation & by-laws
3. Bus. License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. List of clients & contact person
7. Location Map of Office
8. DOH Accreditation
9. Certificate of Training/s for Service Engineers
10. Product list w/ Cert. of Exclusive Distributorship & brochure
11. Notarized Cert. of Authority to sign & represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **April 20, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- March 23 24, 25, 30, 31 & April 1, 2001)

PNOC COAL CORPORATION
Building 2, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-1320; 893-6001 local 2208 and 4332; Fax No. (632) 817-1241

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC Coal Corporation (PNOC-CC) invites prequalified accredited contractors to submit sealed bids for the:

ON-CALL COAL HANDLING SERVICES
(PCC 00-010 B2)

Bid documents may be secured from the Administrative Department (c/o Mr George N. Alejandro) starting **March 27, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Hundred (P500.00).

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Administrative Department not later than 2:00 o'clock PM of **April 5, 2001** and then publicly opened at 2:30 PM of the same date at the above address.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **April 2, 2001, 2:00 PM at the PNOC-CC Conference Room, Building 2, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.**

PNOC-CC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC-CC.

(Sgd.) **FERNANDO C. VILLANUEVA**
Chairman
Prequalification, Bidding and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Mar. 24, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it shall be conducting a sealed auction on **29 March 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Penthouse Canteen, 11th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the allocation of quotas to NFA licensed grains importers and wholesalers/retailers covering the importation of 7,500 MT maximum of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous rice.

Interested auctioner/s should be able to comply with the following which shall be submitted to DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City not later than **26 March 2001**:

a. A duly notarized authorization from the owner, chairman, partner or president of the sole proprietorship, partnership, company, corporation or cooperative certifying that:
    a.1 He/She is presently connected with the foregoing entity either as owner, official, employee or present stockholder/shareholder;
    a.2 He/She is authorized to represent the entity to the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities pertinent therein.

b. Updated/valid NFA license as importer and wholesaler/retailer. It is understood that the winning auctioner/s shall comply with other NFA rules and regulations on NFA licensing as deemed appropriate.

The 7,500 MT maximum shall be auctioned at a indicative equalization fee bid of PHP 3,240.00 per MT. Maximum quantity to be offered per importer is 1,000 MT.

Cargo discharge shall be limited to any of the following ports only:

Manila
Poro Point/La Union
Batangas
Cebu
Tabaco, Albay/Legaspi
Davao
Cagayan de Oro

Awarded auctioners during the first tranch of auction conducted by the NFA last **March 02, 2001** shall not anymore be allowed to participate in this second tranch of auction.

All interested auctioners shall be subjected to payment/posting of bid bond equivalent to 10% of total bid price in the form of cashier's check or Manager's check.

The pre-auction conference will be held on **27 March 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the NFA Penthouse Canteen.

Interested auctioners may secure the Guidelines in the Importation of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous Rice by the Private Sector from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

Winning auctioners shall be issued a Permit to Import Rice after payment of the required Equalization Fee. It is understood that the tariff/duty of 50% shall be paid by the importer.

Auction documents will be available on **27 March 2001** after the pre-auction conference upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, to waive any informality thereof and to accept only such bid/s as are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI -- March 23 24 & 25 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The LTO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all reputable Contractors to Pre qualify and bid for CY 2001 Security Services

Prospective bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification requirements tc the Office of the Chairman, BAC, Sub-Committee, Property Section on or before March 30, 2001

1. Name, address and telephone number of Company;
2. Registration Papers and Certificate of Accreditation from DTI,
3. Mayor's Permit and/or license to operate for the current year;
4. 1999 and 2000 Financial Statement;
5. SEC Articles of Incorporation In case of Single Proprietorship, Registration Papers from DTI;
6. Certified True Copy of 1999 and 2000 Income Tax Return and BIR Official Receipt of Payment;
7. Track Record List of Clients for at least three years;
8. BIR VAT Certificate,
9. License to operate from PNP Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Division (PNP-SAGSD).
10. A bidder should not have any interest/ownership with other companies/supplier and therefore must submit only one (1) bid Sister companies will be disqualified in the bidding proper.

Pre-bidding conference will be on April 3, 2001 and bidding proper will be on April 10, 2001 at 2:00 p m. at the LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The LTO neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that award will be made

The LTO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, ban any bidder with unsatisfactory and derogatory track record and award the security services to any contractor whose proposal as evaluated by the LTO-BAC is most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) ATTY. PERCIVAL A. CENDANA
BAC Chairman

(PDI -- Mar. 24, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 Issue.**

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* Rates are VAT exclusive

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Naga Branch

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids the following properties:

LIST OF ACQUIRED ASSETS
FOR PUBLIC BIDDING
ON APRIL 19, 2001

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION PROPERTY	MINIMUM BID
1	240 sq.m. TCT #17107 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L13 B15 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	P 268,700.00
2	226 sq.m. TCT #17103 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Poorly maintained w/ extension bungalow	L4 B5 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	291,800.00
3	240 sq.m. TCT #19672 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Poorly maintained w/ extension bungalow	L1 B3 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	261,100.00
4	219 sq.m. TCT #16410 LOT ONLY	L11 B7 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	210,200.00
5	240 sq.m. TCT #14632 LOT ONLY	L10 B14 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	230,400.00
6	332 sq.m. TCT #16406 LOT ONLY	L8 B7 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	318,700.00
7	229 sq.m. TCT #14633 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L10 B4 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	266,700.00
8	220 sq.m. TCT #17100 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L33 B5 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	233,700.00
9	180 sq.m. TCT #15190 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L24 B8 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	201,900.00
10	233 sq.m. TCT #15189 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L3 B8 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	254,700.00
11	180 sq.m. TCT#15085 w/ 2BR and 1 T&B Poorly maintained w/ extension bungalow	L31 B8 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	226,600.00
12	266 sq.m. TCT #19671 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Poorly maintained bungalow	L1 B15 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	289,000.00
13	240 sq.m. TCT #16405 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Poorly maintained bungalow	L8 B15 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	307,700.00
14	180 sq.m. TCT #T-29058 w/ 3 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L16 B23 Modern Village Subd. Pili, Camarines Sur	202,400.00
15	188 sq.m. TCT #T23919 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L2 B26 OLV Pangpang, Sorsogon, Sorsogon	194,400.00
16	170 sq.m. TCT #T-29063 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L10 B26 OLV Pangpang, Sorsogon, Sorsogon	181,200.00
17	167 sq.m. TCT#T-29062 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L6 B26 OLV Pangpang, Sorsogon, Sorsogon	180,300.00
18	173 sq.m. TCT #T-29060 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Poorly maintained bungalow	L32 B24 OLV Pangpang, Sorsogon, Sorsogon	187,200.00
19	2943 sq.m. TCT #T-29064 w/ 4 BR and 1 T&B Very deteriorated bungalow	L1532-A B25 Guinlajon, Sorsogon, Sorsogon	1,280,900.00
20	236 sq.m. TCT #10836 LOT ONLY	L3 B2 Everlasting St., Naga City Subd., Naga City	542,800.00
21	345 sq.m. TCT #11548 w/ 3 BR and 1 T&B Very deteriorated bungalow w/ basement	L12 B2 Diamond Drive Lomeda Subd. San Felipe, Naga City	561,800.00
22	360 sq.m. TCT #11613 & 11612 w/ 3 BR and 2 T&B Poorly maintained bungalow with basement	L16 & 17 B3 27 Diamond St. Filoville Subd., Calauag, Naga City	482,400.00
23	273 sq m. TCT # 19670 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L30 B3 Modern Village, Pili, Camarines Sur	319,100.00
24	260 sq.m. TCT # 19673 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L37 B4 Modern Village, Pili, Camarines Sur	315,900.00
25	229 sq m. TCT #16401 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L11 B4 Modern Village, Pili, Camarines Sur	244,400.00
26	240 sq.m. TCT #16407 w/ 2 BR and 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	L21 B3 Modern Village, Pili, Camarines Sur	271,500.00
27	1341 sq.m. TCT #T-17266 w/ 3 BR and 2 T&B Very deteriorated bungalow	Bacolod South Poblacion Juban, Sorsogon	583,200.00
28	376 sq.m. TCT #43707 w/ 4 BR and 3 T&B Very deteriorated bungalow	Sitio Buenavista, San Isidro Talisay, Camarines Norte	12,500.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instruction to Bidders and General Conditions are available at the Loans Section, 3rd Floor SSS Building, Concepcion Pequena, Naga City. Please contact Engr. Ermina Maria P. Robredo at Tel. No. (054) 473-00-24.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Loans Section, 3rd Floor SSS Building, Concepcion Pequena, Naga City from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on **April 19, 2001**. The Bid should be labeled "Acquired Asset Disposal Committee, c/o Loans Section, Social Security System, Concepcion Pequena, Naga City."

Bidder's deposit equivalent to not less that 10% of the bid price in cash (Philippine Money/US Dollar) or in Certified Manager's/Cashier's check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form of draft purportedly as a manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The Award shall be granted to the highest bidder. The sale of properties be "As Is, Where Is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property at their own expense without seeking the assistance of SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the bid price, the balance shall be payable in Cash within 30 days or an option to amortize within 12 months from receipt of notice of approval at 13% rate of interest per annum compounded monthly.

The System reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) **MERCEDITAS G. CACULITAN**
Senior Vice President
Chairman-Acquired Assets
Disposal Committee

(PDI -- March 24 2001)

OBITUARIES

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

RAYMUND MADJUS MAGUYON

March 2, 1967 - March 19, 2001

His loving wife **PINKY**; sons **MIGS** and **JAKE**; parents **PAENG** and **NELLY MAGUYON**; brothers and sisters **FE**, **IRWIN** and **CRISTY**, **SIS. CHRISTINE**, **JOJIE**, **THIRD** and **CHERRY** and **AWIE**; in-laws **EMIL** and **DELFA CADIENTE**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Premiere Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Sunday, March 25, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Cor. 5:4-5

Dominador F. Mayor

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on March 21, 2001 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Remedios**; children **Nathaniel** and **Cora**, **Baby** and **Cesar**, **Leila**, **Cynthia** and **Mario**, together with the grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Mark Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 25, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

ARTURO RONTOS GABUNA

March 6, 1922 - March 22, 2001
(Former Municipal Administrator of Makati City)

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Rae**, and daughter **Honor**, nephews and nieces and other relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 25, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the Mass at 1:00 PM.

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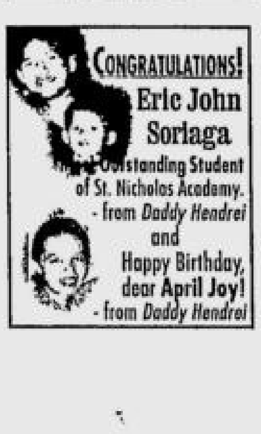

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SCIENCE /HEALTH

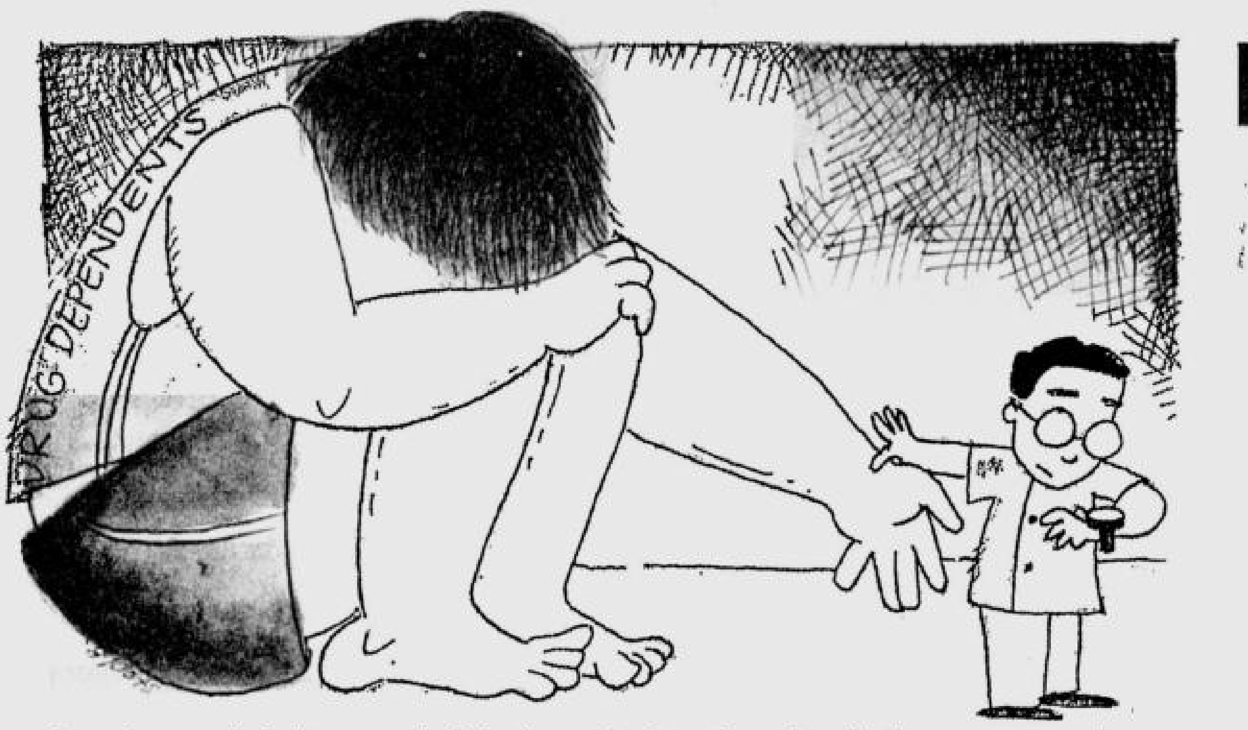
CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Drug rehab centers need help

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

IS there a shortage of drug rehabilitation centers in the country? About 5,000 drug dependents have been reported by about 60 residential treatment and outpatient centers nationwide.

But this may just be the tip of the iceberg as drug abusers usually do not come out to be identified, thus, the difficulty of seeing the overall magnitude of the drug abuse problem in the country. The drug dependents in the country WAS estimated at 1.7 million as of last count. The 54 accredited residential treatment centers nationwide—government and nongovernment—can accommodate about 4,893 patients. There are also 21 outpatient centers.



Overcrowding

The NBI Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Tagaytay, for instance, reported that it now has 410 admitted patients. The center has two psychologists, one psychiatrist, three social workers and seven medical officers. Its capacity is 380. Board and lodging is free, as well as the three square meals. An optional P30 daily deposit entitles the patient to a *merienda*(snack).

The NBI TRC is already overcrowded. Why are they crowding the public rehabs when there are a number of privately owned centers?

Price is one reason.

Private rehab centers, for example, charge between P10,000 a month and P95,000 per 45 days. A counselor who refused to be named said the fee has prevented poor drug dependents from seeking private help. As a result, most drug dependents are forced to crowd government rehab centers.

A former drug dependent who turned counselor in a private drug rehabilitation center said that two years ago he was admitted twice in an NBI treatment rehabilitation center where he experienced being with 60 patients under one social worker and one psychologist.

The Narcotics Command, in the meantime, has admitted 4,000 patients. At present, the Dangerous Drug Board's records of the Narcotics Group Drug Rehabilitation Center indicates that it can only accommodate 1,000 patients.

Other government-owned drug rehab centers include the Panfilo M. Lacson Drug Rehabilitation Center with a capacity of 300. The Quezon City drug treatment and rehabilitation center has a capacity of 200. The NBI rehab center in Mindanao can only accommodate 60. The Metro Manila Development Authority has built 17 new buildings in Bicutan, which can house about 850 drug dependents. These new buildings will be run by the Narcotics Command.

Aside from the additional 17 buildings for Metro Manila drug dependents, a facility was also recently built in Central Luzon.

The vice chair of the inter-agency committee on drug rehabilitation, Dr. Rosendo Sualog, explained that the reported 1.7 million drug dependents already include the regular, irregular and even experimental users.

The real issue, Sualog reminded, is not just a question of having enough rehab centers and outpatient centers to accommodate drug dependents, but the lack of quality counselors for drug abusers nationwide and the methods that are practiced.

"Do the counselors know how to handle drug addiction counseling? Do they have a sense of mission? Are they role models? Are they eager to learn more?" said Sualog.

Dissatisfaction

An interview with a male drug dependent in Las Piñas who was admitted to a rehab center in Tagaytay and had escaped with his friends confided that they were dissatisfied with how they were being handled in the center. He said that what terrified him most was when his mother planned to transfer him to rehab centers run military-style.

The counselor explained that many rehab centers believe that a military-style, physical punishment and reward system is the most effective way to treat patients.

Growing issue

Dr. Lilia Mabanag, chief of treatment and rehabilitation of the Dangerous Drug Board said that another growing issue is that of the "dual diagnosis" cases. These are psychotic drug-dependents entered into rehab centers that do not have facilities and personnel that can treat psychosis. Parents of such dependents, she said, would not want their children be admitted at the National Center for Mental Health since this "image" of being a mental patient would place a social and psychological stigma on them.

Last year, of about 5,000 who underwent drug tests, about 188 were discovered as being psychotic, while 129 where tested as drug dependents that have psychosis.

Mabanag said the number of rehab centers was not a problem. A more pressing problem that needs immediate attention, she says, are drug dependents who suffer from psychosis and are being admitted to rehab centers that have no psychiatric wards.

FAST FACTS ON DRUGS ABUSE

Number of drug abusers: 1.7 million nationwide (the National Youth Commission estimates that 1.2 million Filipino youth are using drugs)

Average age of drug abusers: 27 years

Sex: for every female drug abuser, there are 12 male abusers

Civil status: 57 percent are single, 32 percent are married

IQ: average

Employment: 36 percent are workers or employees; 25 percent are unemployed; 15 percent self-employed; 9 percent student; 4 percent out-of-school youth

Average monthly income: P6,168

Residence: urban areas, mostly Metro Manila

Family size: average of three to four siblings

Duration of drug-taking: more than two years

Most available, affordable and abused drug: marijuana

Drug of choice: shabu, followed by cough syrup preparations, tranquilizers, cold tablets, volatile solvents and muscle relaxants

Least available and infrequently abused drugs: heroin, cocaine, hashish oil, LSD and other hallucinogens, barbiturates, methaqualone

Nature of drug-taking: most users use only one type of drug

Monthly consumption: 5-10 grams per drug user, totaling 8.5 million grams monthly for all drug users, according to the PNP Narcotics Group. This amounts to P17 billion monthly, or P204 billion annually.

Extent of drug problem: 6,020 barangays (representing 14 percent of total barangays nationwide) are affected according to the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center

Family-related factors leading to drug abuse: a means of escape from strict and domineering parents, lack of communication among family members, unharmonious familial atmosphere, overprotective or too-permissive parenting, parental absence or neglect due to work or other preoccupation, rebellious and obstinate children who defy authority

School-related factors: lack of basic drug education and information campaigns, ineffective school teachers and school administrators who lack training and teaching knowledge on drug education

Community-related factors: anomie or normlessness, easy availability of drugs or presence of pushers, lack of sports and recreational facilities, unemployment, lack of vocational or skills-training opportunities, undesirable peer models

Media-related factors: sensationalizing news stories on illegal drugs, inaccurate reporting, advertisements that create social acceptance not only for smoking and drinking but also for drug use

Other factors: collapse of moral and religious values

(Source: Lecture of Matilde Manuel, Dangerous Drugs Board, during a forum sponsored by the University of the Philippines – Manila)

Math problems and a true story

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

HERE is a request from E. Fajardo [esf@mozcom.com] about math learning aids:

I am a regular reader of your column. I even cut out and keep your articles for future reference. Recently, I came across a reader who asked you to compare Aloha and Kumon Math programs (Sept. 2, 2000).

Are there any programs like these for adults? Are there books or manuals that I may use? I believe that we grown-ups also need these programs as much as kids do, not just for better understanding of the complexities of math, but for conquering our fears.

I surfed the Internet for books and tapes. I found a few, and most are really expensive. I don't even know if they use similar principles as used in Aloha or Kumon. Are they really that effective? They claim to be, but I only read the descriptions on the sites.

I hope you can help me regarding this.

There are loads of mathematics learning materials, not just on the Internet, as you may have discovered, but also in local bookstores. Why don't you go to National Bookstore, Goodwill Bookstore, or Powerbooks and scan their shelves? The last time I went to these stores, I saw a lot of good materials. I cannot really recommend any titles specifically, because I don't know how much math background you already have, and how much math you seriously need to know. For a start, at the risk of self-publicity, if you want to know more about math anxiety, get hold of my books "Why Be Afraid of Math" (available in Bookmark) and "Eureka! Thoughts on Math" (available in National). If you want to do exercises, you can take a look at the Schaum's Outline Series.

Now do these books take the Aloha or Kumon approach? I am sure the principles are similar, but the exact materials differ, of course. Why don't you enroll in these two courses—if you are really serious about learning? They accept adults, not only kids. If you are diligent enough, you can also find free learning sites on the Internet. Good luck.

* * *

Evidently, my numerous columns on puzzles and games is not enough. Here is a request from R. M. Reodique xelar_stRike@.yahoo.com]:

I am a student of the Bicol University College of Engineering in Legaspi City. I am interested in math, and perhaps we can exchange problems. I want to learn more about math, and I believe that through you, I would achieve what I want, if you are willing to share your expertise.

Can we be friends? You can send me problems and I will send you the solutions if I know them.

I receive loads of mail weekly, so I don't have time to conduct a one-on-one tutorial session with one reader. If you need problems, you can consult the puzzle books in your library, read through my past columns, or get hold of my books. If you really want to learn math, you do not need my expertise at all. What you need is determination and good textbooks. You can start by going to your university's math department and asking them for good references. You may also want to look for a personal tutor there.

* * *

We are always thrilled to learn more about famous people, especially when the information happens to be true. My husband Smith sent me this e-mail which is sure to be of interest to all of you:

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby boy. He dropped his tools and ran to the boy. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill

His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

* * *

Send your queries to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena @mathsci. math.admu. edu.ph.

The case of the paranoid professor

MEDICAL FILES

PROFESSOR Tito has become both a dreaded terror and laughing stock in the university where he teaches. He is 55 years old and has been teaching full time more than half of his life. He claims to be one of the best lawyers in town, but this is most likely just in theory since he never got to practice in a court of law. His court experience is limited to his twice-weekly doubles on the tennis court.

Everyone agrees to his cerebral superiority. He finished law with flying colors which earned him a scholarship at Harvard. This was however prematurely aborted by a vehicular accident that incapacitated him for several months. He started to become bitter since then and blamed everyone for the raw deal he got at a critical stage of his career.

Apparently, he has vented his bitterness on his students, many of whom consider adjusting to Tito's idiosyncrasies as one of the biggest challenges they have to hurdle in their law school. They can't look at him straight for more than five seconds since that may be considered as a provocative look, but they can't also look elsewhere for the whole hour under him, lest they be charged of inattentiveness. In both instances, they stand the big risk of being the recipient of a flying eraser, or being involuntary ejected out of the classroom. And always, without due process.

Well-meaning colleagues in the faculty have tried to talk to Tito, but he arrogantly declares that he doesn't care what his "imbecile students" complain about him. What will only matter is what his professors at Harvard think of him.

Myrna, Tito's wife, is considered by many as a living martyr, having endured each day of the 20 years that they have been married. Being a nurse, Myrna knows that her husband can be helped by psychotherapy and she has had endless discussions with him on this. Tito however insists that it is not he, but everyone else who criticizes him who needs psychotherapy.

"Your husband has a personality disorder," Myrna's psychiatrist-friend told her. He explained that people with personality disorders are rigid and show a maladaptive pattern of thinking and behaving. Hence, they are likely to have troubles in their social and interpersonal relationship.

"What type of personality disorder does my husband have," Myrna asked.

"Based on your description, it looks like he has a paranoid personality," replied the doctor. "People with a paranoid personality project their conflicts and hostilities on others. They are cold and distant in relating even to relatives and close friends. They see hostile and malevolent intentions behind other people's trivial, innocent, or even well-intended actions. They are often suspicious, frequently leading to aggressive and abrasive behaviors. However, although paranoid individuals work in relative isolation, they may remain highly efficient and conscientious."

"Is it easy to treat personality disorders, doc?"

"Not quite," the doctor frankly answered, "on the other hand, it's a big challenge, almost an impossible task for patients with a paranoid personality. Generally, people with personality disorders aren't aware that their behavior or thought patterns are inappropriate. They deny any need for therapy. Relatives and peers have to exert both motivation and a strong persuasive pressure to convince them to submit to psychotherapy."

The doctor further stressed that when the patient finally submits to therapy, the psychiatrist must tactfully but firmly and repeatedly point out the undesirable consequences of the person's thought and behavior patterns and guide the paranoid individual on how to reconnect himself to reality. Group and family therapy, and participation in therapeutic social clubs or self-help groups are all valuable aspects in treatment.

Myrna remains undaunted by the doctor's warning that paranoid personality disorders are rarely amenable to any therapy. She has endured 20 years bearing the brunt of Tito's paranoia. She is determined to spend the next years of her life to have Tito treated. Even if it takes her entire lifetime.

(Medical Files is based on the case studies of actual patients. Apart from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Some information have been changed to cover the patient's identity. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/ Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T. M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

Preventing reproductive tract infections

A PROLONGED painful sensation in the urinary or genital area almost always requires a physician's examination because it could be the symptom of a hidden menace called reproductive tract infection (RTI).

RTIs affect the lower and upper reproductive tracts. They are caused by different kinds of germs such as bacteria, protozoa and viruses. A common example of RTI is sexually transmitted disease (STD), although there are many other infections of the reproductive system that are not brought about by sexual contact.

While RTIs affect both men and women, the latter are more vulnerable to this disease. Women should be aware of the serious complications of RTIs and of the fact that infections can be transmitted to their offspring if it is contracted during pregnancy.

The Department of Health, in celebration of International Women's Month, extends its efforts to educate women on the symptoms, forms and treatment of RTIs.

One can never tell the presence of RTI through physical appearance alone and this increases the chance of spreading it.

Signs of RTI in women are: abnormal vaginal discharge or unusual odor; pain or burning sensation when urinating; pain on one or both sides of the lower abdomen; irregular menstrual period; and sores, warts or blisters on or around the genitals.

The DOH has identified three major causes of RTIs.

The first is iatrogenic infection, which is caused by performing certain medical treatment or surgical procedure using dirty or unsterile instruments. It could also be due to dirty objects inserted into the uterus to induce abortion.

The second is endogenous infection, which is due to the overgrowth of organisms normally present in a healthy woman's genital tract. Candidiasis (also known as yeast infection) and bacteria vaginosis are examples of RTIs of this nature.

The most common causes of RTIs are STDs, including gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, warts and HIV/ AIDS. Since these are transmitted through oral, anal or genital sex, extreme care must be practiced. Safer sex and condoms, or abstinence altogether, are the only ways of preventing the transmission of STDs.

Those who have reason to believe they have RTI should consult a doctor or health worker at once. If the infection is caused by STD, advise sexual partners to have a checkup. Take the full course of medications as prescribed, even if no symptoms are evident.

RTIs have a great chance of spreading and threaten even the lives of loved ones if not treated properly.

SCISCOPE

Medical convention starts today

THE MANILA Medical Society, the oldest medical association in the country, is holding its 37th annual convention starting today at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The convention, which ends tomorrow, will have for its theme "What's New in the Old." Manila Medical Society president Dr. Lacandula A. Elayda said the participants would be accorded with several entertaining programs and raffle prizes, courtesy of several corporate sponsors. The two-day convention includes the MMS-PMA elections, research paper contest, scientific symposium, fellowship night and the annual business meeting. The special keynote speaker is lawyer Perfecto Yasay, former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Endocrine group meets March 26-27

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism Inc. (PSEM) will hold its annual convention on March 26 and 27 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Endocrine experts from Europe, United States and the Philippines will give updates on diabetes, thyroid disorders, osteoporosis, nutrition, obesity, lipid problems, and pituitary, adrenal and reproductive endocrinology. Philippine speakers include Dr. Cynthia Halili-Manabat, president of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology, and Dr. Ruby T. Go, president of the Philippine Diabetes Association. Two P100,000 financial grants for studies and research on diabetes and endocrinology will be awarded through the PSEM.

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Saturday SPECIAL

'Shrek' benefits from recent advances in animation

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent trip to Los Angeles and Palo Alto, California to cover the making of "Shrek," PDI-DreamWorks' latest animated feature, opened our eyes to the latest advances that have been made in the constantly evolving field of animation.

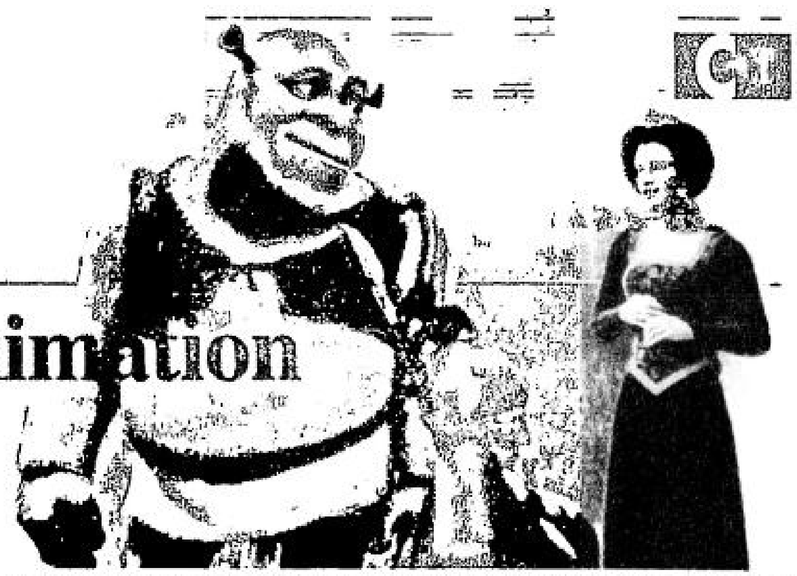
Primary colors

In the past, cartoon features meant bright, primary colors, obviously drawn and unreal characters, simple storylines, a two-dimensional look, and "funny" voices on the soundtrack.

Through the years, this "cartoon-y" look has changed, as animators continue to strive for greater realism in their work.

Nowhere else is this more evident than in "Shrek," which showcases the results of the latest efforts to attain the so-called "Holy Grails of Animation"—creating realistic, believable human characters; rich, organic, natural environments; mixtures of fluids (especially when they interact with characters); clothing

'SHREK'/ p.C2



THE CHARACTERS of Shrek, Donkey and Princess Fiona come more realistically to life in DreamWorks' latest animated feature.

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Freedom of expression is threatened anew

BY BEHN CERVANTES

THE SUDDEN brouhaha was stirred by the usual suspects—ultra-conservatives speaking for the whole country and claiming to have the moral welfare of the young at heart blasted "Live Show" as nothing but a sleazy skin flick.

Immediate recall

Cardinal Sin and some members of an organization that crusades against pornography decried the exhibition of the film and demanded its immediate recall. Since the cardinal endorsed Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Chairman Nicanor Tiongson for the post, he felt he had the prerogative to instruct Tiongson to recall the film.

Tiongson explained that the film in question was approved in May 2000 by the Armida Siguion-Reyna board. Therefore, the Joey Reyes film on human degradation had a five-year permit for exhibition according to the rules of the MTRCB.

To withdraw it would be to ignore prescribed procedure and make Tiongson liable for a suit for abuse of power.

Furthermore, Tiongson believed in the merits of the film, which not only has reaped fine reviews abroad but even received an R-18 classification from a Vatican representative to the Berlin Film Festival.

Cinema, a classification board set up by the Catholic Bishops Association of the Philippines, has also classified the movie R-18, noting the numerous nude scenes and use of foul language but understanding their use in the context of the theme and purpose of the film. The classification took into consideration the *context* of the use of both nudity and foul language.

TIONGSON. Valid grounds for resigning.

Excuses

Cardinal Sin pompously told Tiongson he was merely making excuses and berated him for not having a backbone. Tiongson declared that he had his own principles and stood by them.

News of the brouhaha reached the Palace and President Arroyo's position was sought. A meeting was called to discuss the problem. Tiongson went to the meeting with a heavy heart, having heard all kinds of reports of official reaction on the controversy. Sonia Saldivar-Ronda arrived and prayed the rosary. A priest who was allegedly instrumental in brewing the Tiongson controversy at the Palace did not arrive for the meeting. Instead, he asked someone else to take his place. His alternate did not arrive, either. Was this a statement that prudence is the better part of valor, especially if you do not have solid ground to stand on?

Tiongson had a few minutes with the president. When the discussion started, Ronda claimed that the Philippines was drowning in sex, sex and more sex. The country was now a Sodom and Gomorrah, she practically wailed. She had not seen "Live Show," but never mind, it was sleazy. What was all this talk of art? She would not listen to explanations about how sex and foul language are viewed in the context of film.

When informed by Tiongson that the evaluators on the Catholic classification board approved "Live Show" for adults, she stated in no uncertain terms that they should be replaced because they were *pa-artistik* merely because they had attended film workshops.

Immature

All these artists were too *avant garde* and were thus sowing terrible values in the young, she wailed again. The same young people who are being asked to vote in the coming elections are the ones she brands immature, unable to decipher between right and wrong. These are also the same young people who massed at Edsa to bring down Estrada in People Power II. How come the youth can do such things but are not permitted to see a film that has won critical acclaim merely because it has simulated sex and street language?

When the president left the door open for Tiongson to decide on the course of action to take, along with a recommendation to regulate some of the decisions of the MTRCB, Ronda declared she would let the cardinal know of her position.

Anathema

Tiongson resigned on valid grounds. It is too bad, however, because now the gains won by the struggle for "freedom of expression" may be derailed if ultra-conservative attitudes will reign in the next MTRCB administration. Imagine members who will consider sex, nudity and freedom of expression as anathema in cinema?

Let us not forget that the cinema is the most popular of the media. When censorship is accepted there, it will move on to curb freedom of expression in television, press and public assembly.

We experienced such restrictions during Marcos' Martial Law regime. This precedent can lead to the same abrogation of our inalienable right to express dissent. The freedom of expression included by the late Lino Brocka among our rights declared in the Constitution is threatened once more. God help us!

'Shrek' benefits from recent . . .

(From page C1)

with detailed textures and movement; realistic hair, fur and fire.

Need

Some people may question the need for these efforts—after all, animated features are "just cartoons" that appeal to kids, right?

But many animators now feel that cartoon features need not be childish, and can engage the attention and interest of adults as well—thus the perceived need for greater realism and sophistication in their images, and more texture and range to their storytelling.

Let's take these elements one by one, and see how they are developed further in "Shrek":

Realistic humans: Up till now, human characters have not been the focus of an entire animated feature due to their complexity. Creating realistic yet stylized human characters is one of the most important technical and artistic advances in "Shrek."

Natural reaction

PDI-DreamWorks created a complex animation system that encompassed everything from bone and muscle movement to the skin's natural reaction to light!

In addition, each character's detailed expressions were produced with special tools (called "Shapers") that enabled the animators to create extremely sophisticated facial movements by using several interacting layers of bone, muscle, fat, skin, and finally, layers of clothing, hair and fur.

That's right, the "Shrek" animators worked from inside-out, instead of the standard style of surface drawing. As a result, the characters in the film look and move more realistically than ever before.

Animators

In the demo staged for us at PDI's Palo Alto studios, the animators took us, layer by layer, into the literally physical "depths" of each character, and we saw how bone and muscle movements were made to affect the way that each character's skin moved.

It still wasn't completely real, but it was more believable than the animated features we saw as recently as last year.

Natural environments: Large-scale organic environments with all types of foliage have always been difficult to create in a believable way. To solve this problem, Shrek's computer animators used a "digital greenhouse" to "grow" forests made up of hundreds of trees with millions of leaves that are able to react to the slightest breeze.

Major challenge

Clothing: It was a major challenge to the "Shrek" animators to create a variety of clothing that moved, wrinkled and reacted to light just like cloth would in real life. Detailed textures, from the flowing velvet of Princess Fiona's gown to the rough burlap of Shrek's tunic, are evident in many scenes in the film.

Fire: The story of "Shrek" called for various types of fire—from torches and campfires to burning bridges and the Dragon's flaming breath. To create this wide range of flaming effects, instead of doing composites of live-action fire footage, the effects developers came up with motion simulation and shading techniques to render computer-generated fire that looked right for the movie's look of "stylized realism."

Complex interactions

Fluids: The film pushed the effects envelope further in this regard with PDI's Academy Award-winning Fluid Animation System. Groundbreaking advances were made to facilitate complex interactions of fluids with characters.

Particularly difficult to execute were scenes that featured various types of fluids with different viscosities—water, mud, beer, etc. These developments made possible such scenes as Shrek's mud shower and a bursting keg of beer to create a slick mud surface for Shrek's hockey moves.

People interested in furthering their understanding of and appreciation for state-of-the-art film animation should make it a point to watch "Shrek" when it shows in town. It will help them radically revise their ideas on what animation can and can't do!

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Young music fans pick the best Filipino bands

SIDE A. Wholesome lyrics.

Their tastes range from the irreverent parodies of Parokya ni Edgar to the ballads of Side A

BY NOELANI TORRE

THE YOUTH are known for their obsession with things musical, bands in particular. Allowances are religiously saved for weeks, only to be decimated in an hour's tape, CD and poster splurge. Parents are begged for concert tickets and curfew extensions.

Images

It is not unusual to find a teenager's room papered with the images of favorite bands and singers. Nor to find out that the thing a teen cannot live without is the precious Walkman or CD player.

Although the outward signs may be the same for almost every teen—the earphones plugged 24 hours a day, the CD library, the boxes of concert tickets stubs—the music they actually listen to varies drastically.

And although there is a pervading belief that today's youth are more Western-oriented, that is not always the case. As a matter of fact, a large number do not obsess on blonde-haired, blue-eyed crooners but on your typical *kayumanggi* Pinoys. Their tastes range from the irreverent parodies of Parokya ni Edgar to the ballads of Side A.

We asked some of these teens and "twenteens" what they thought was the best Filipino band, and here's what they had to say:

Rejuvenation

"The Eraserheads. Aside from pioneering in the rejuvenation of the Pinoy rock music scene, they have a unique sound. Having listened to all their albums, I guarantee a pure sound trip with all their songs.

"Unconventional, adventurous and daring to be different, these four guys stand out from the rest. They always manage to come up with something different.

"The E-heads have always been my favorite Pinoy group ever since 'Ligaya' and 'Magasin.' Their tunes really have this way of making me crank up the radio to full volume.

"People sometimes find the E-heads' songs strange and unappealing, but for someone like me who has a wide range of musical preferences, I find them the best Filipino band."—***Eliza de la Fuente, 17, Cebu City***

"Side A. Their songs are inspiring, especially 'Forever More.' If you want to do some soul-searching, just listen to their songs and you'll be able to think deeply.

"Actually, their songs aren't *that* heavy. What I like about them is how they manage to pull off tunes that can be dangerously mushy and cheesy-sounding if anybody else sang them. Their music is sweet but not so sweet that they'll give you a toothache.

"Their lyrics are wholesome, plus you can't deny that they really do know how to sing, unlike some bands out there whose members just shout and moan."—***Haydee Mutia, 17, Valenzuela City***

"Parokya ni Edgar. Their songs take your mind off problems and political issues. I'm so tired of them—I have them for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"You can really jam to their music. It's danceable and singable—you don't have to be a voice major to sing their songs. It doesn't take refined vocal chords and perfect breath control, and all that.

Pure fun

"And they sing about things we can relate to. What they deal with happens in real life. I admire their daring to be, well, '*gago*.' They're just pure fun!"—***Pure Garcia, 20, Zamboanga City***

"The Jerks. They talk about the political and social situation in the country. Their songs are criticisms of the present social system. They play at mobilizations and rallies.

"Their audience isn't just people of our age or certain social positions, they reach people from way up the social ladder to way down. Even if the rallies are multi-sectoral, they have songs for farmers and workers. Their songs are usually in Tagalog so they really reach everybody."—***Kattleya Sara Ramirez, 20, Bataan***

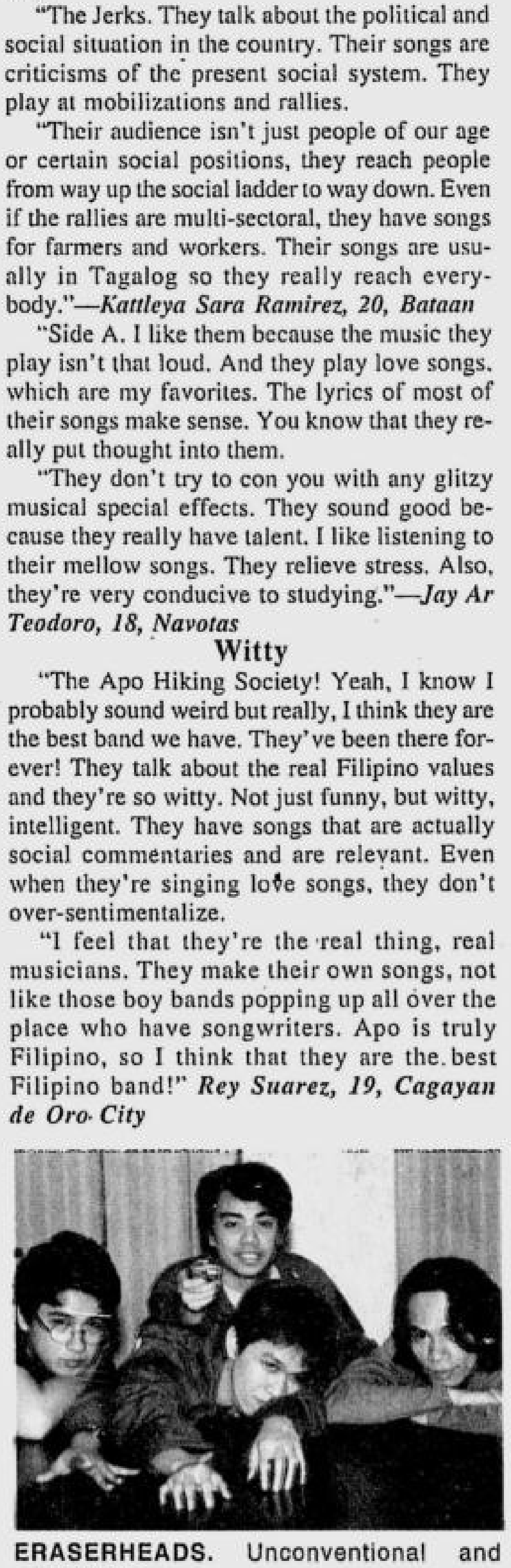
"Side A. I like them because the music they play isn't that loud. And they play love songs, which are my favorites. The lyrics of most of their songs make sense. You know that they really put thought into them.

"They don't try to con you with any glitzy musical special effects. They sound good because they really have talent. I like listening to their mellow songs. They relieve stress. Also, they're very conducive to studying."—***Jay Ar Teodoro, 18, Navotas***

Witty

"The Apo Hiking Society! Yeah, I know I probably sound weird but really, I think they are the best band we have. They've been there forever! They talk about the real Filipino values and they're so witty. Not just funny, but witty, intelligent. They have songs that are actually social commentaries and are relevant. Even when they're singing love songs, they don't over-sentimentalize.

"I feel that they're the real thing, real musicians. They make their own songs, not like those boy bands popping up all over the place who have songwriters. Apo is truly Filipino, so I think that they are the best Filipino band!" ***Rey Suarez, 19, Cagayan de Oro City***



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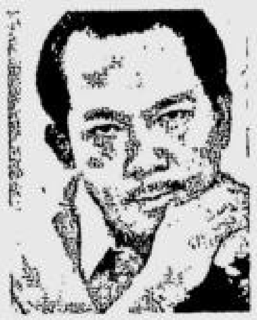
Singers on the comeback trail

By Remy M. Umerez

NEVER has there been a period so full of album launchings than the month that's about to end. Movie events took a back seat when several recording outfits launched the albums of their respective artists. Three of them are on the comeback trail—Rico J. Puno, Anthony Castelo and Marco Sison. For their part, Divas Kuh Ledesma and Pops Fernandez release new albums on a regular basis.

Venues


PUNO. Councilor by day, artist by night.

Several venues were utilized, like the Hard Rock Café in Makati for Rico Puno's "Aliw." The launch was incorporated with a show for the paying public.

Classified Media in cooperation with Viva Records staged an open-air launch *a la* concert in the park at the Rockwell Center, also in Makati. The rest settled for functions rooms of restaurants on Morato ave., Quezon City.

In Marco's case, lighted candles decorated the preview room of Viva Films, where he serenaded the entertainment press with songs culled from his album.

Rico and Anthony are celebrating their 25th year in show business, making the release of their albums doubly significant.

Public service has occupied Rico's time of late, earning him the tag "Makati councilor by day and artist by night." His devotion for music has never waned, however.

He was drawn back to the recording scene upon learning that Eraserheads' Ely Buendia would produce his comeback album. Although the idea did not materialize, Rico welcomed the entry of Bodjie Dasig, who continued the venture.

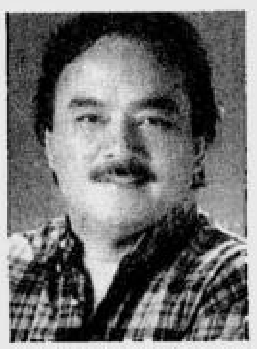
Rico considers "Aliw" his best work to date. BMG employed top writers, producers and arrangers to complete the album.

Ballads

The first single is a naughty song, "Kay Hirap Mong Limutin" written by folk/ pop singer Lito Caimo. More ballads are in the offing and loyal fans of Rico can expect an exemplary display of Rico's suave and soulful singing style that made him a recording superstar years ago.

Rico says that, as long as there are opportunities for him to grow as an artist, he will always be around.

What better way for Anthony Castelo to thank all his supporters than releasing his best songs in an album?


CASATELO. Sentimental journey.

"Hanggang Ngayon Anthony Castelo (Silver Anniversary Album)" is a sentimental journey by way of songs already considered classic hits: "Balatkayo," "Ibig Kong Ibigin Ka," "Hahanapin Ko," "Nang Dahil sa Pag-ibig," Maghihintay Ako sa Iyo," "Panaginip,"etc. "Hanggang Ngayon" has a bonus cut, "Dakilang Lahi," a collaboration between Tito Sotto and Anthony.

Dreams

Looking back, Anthony can only thank the Lord and the many people who have helped him realize his dreams.

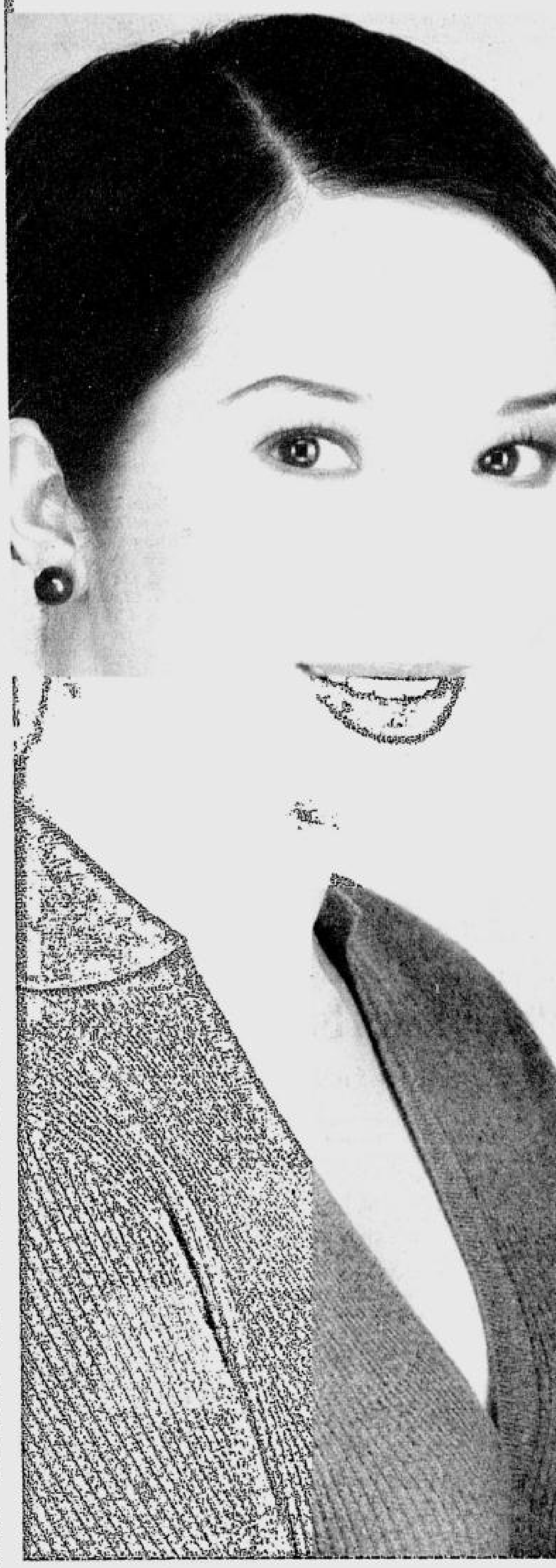
Twenty-one years in the business have made Marco Sison one of our most enduring balladeers. His constant presence is a reminder of how dedicated he is as a recording artist, actor and concert performer. Among the songs he has popularized are "Make Believe," "My Love Will See You Through" and "Ill Face Tomorrow."

Movies are not new to Marco. He was enticed to play dramatic parts in Seiko's "Mahirap ang Magmahal" and "Beautiful Girl." Onstage, Marco has appeared in "Katy," a musical based on the life and times of vaudeville star Katy dela Cruz (1988-1989).

Wide range

His new album "Maghihintay na Lamang" covers a wide range of songs guaranteed to delight his fans. He sings Gloria Estefan's "Words Get in the Way," Jaya's "Wala Na Bang Pag-ibig," Joey Albert's "Iisa Pa Lamang," Stevie Wonder's "Knock Me Off My Feet"

(SINGERS/ p.C7)



The Queen of Talk speaks about the unspeakable.

7 out of 10 women could have CANDIDIASIS - a condition brought about by fungi called Candida Albicans. Candidiasis can cause vaginal itching and discomfort. In all candidness Kris Aquino talks about Candidiasis.

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Wet bathing suits can throw you off. Pantyhose stockings, skin-tight jeans, leotards and nylon undies are common culprits. You are also prone to *candidiasis* during pregnancy, before periods, during menopause, when you're stressed or taking antibiotics/birth control pills or eat the wrong food. Women with diabetes are also at risk. That means just about every woman in the world.

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Consult your doctor.
Be sure to see a doctor the first time you have symptoms of *candidiasis*. These symptoms can also be that of other infections. Self-treatment without proper consultation can only worsen the problem.

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- It does not cause irritations or allergies even with frequent use.
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Inserting Canesten® will not damage your *hymen*. It will not scratch you inside. The tablet will not block anything. To place it, lie down, relax and insert it gently using your index finger. Push it back as far as you can. The tablet will eventually melt. If you're standing up, raise a leg and do the same thing.

Stick to the rules.
- Do not wear tight–fitting or synthetic fiber clothes pantyhose stockings or leotards. Wear cotton panties.
- Wipe from front to back after using the toilet to prevent the bacteria in your rectum from getting into your vagina.
- Change out of wet swimsuits or other damp clothes as soon as you can.
- Reduce the amount of sweets, alcohol and caffeine in your diet.
- Avoid douching or using feminine hygiene sprays or deodorants.

Itching to know more? e-mail jill.salvador.js@bayer-ag.de

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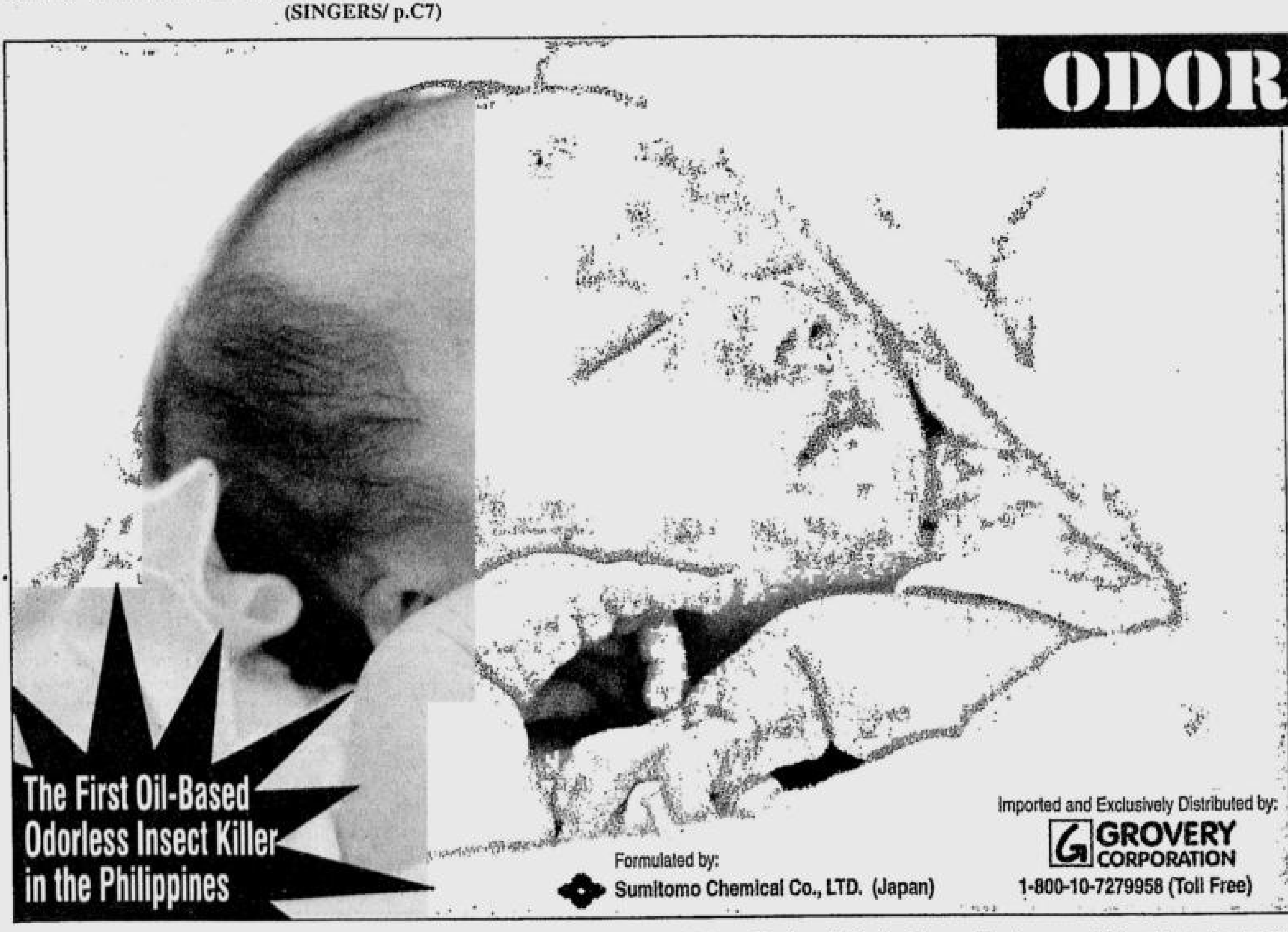
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Lou Veloso fuses theater with politics

By Andy Bais

THEATER has always been part of Lou Veloso's life. For close to three decades now, he has never missed any opportunity to act on stage, no matter how big or small the roles he gets. In fact, his love for theater has been so great that it's inspired him to be what he is now, a highly respected councilor in Manila's Sixth District.

Exact opposite

Lou's growing-up years were the exact opposite of the roles he portrays in most of his stage and theater outings—usually colorful and funny characters that he has been performing with comedic relish. Life was really hard for him at the start.

"There were several times that I and my eight siblings had only a '*pan de sal*' each for lunch or dinner. *Pero kahit na mahirap kami, dinadaan namin sa* comedy. *Gugupit ang isa sa mga kapatid ko ng* picture *ng ulam sa* magazine, then *ilalagay niya sa plato at may takip pa*!" he recalls.

Determined to get himself an education, he variously worked as a dishwasher at Swiss Inn Hotel, a cigarette vendor and a houseboy, and attended school in the evening.

"*Sa lahat ng magkakapatid, ako ang pinaka* adventurous. *Wala akong pinipiling trabaho para lang makamit ko ang gusto ko*," he shares.

Lou never got to finish college, however. He decided to work fulltime as clinic assistant. "Actually, *tagatimpla ako ng gamot at dahil ako ang tagabasa ng* formula, there came a time *na mas alam ko ang ginagawa ng* boss ko," he laughs.

Crash course

He then took a crash course in laboratory technology at the UP College of Medicine. That was his "passport" to work in an industrial clinic in Makati as laboratory technician. It was also at this time that he decided to live on his own and transferred from their Pasay City home to Sta. Ana in Manila, because it was nearer his office.

Lou's entry into the world of theater happened because he got bored with his 8-to-5 job. For lack of exciting things to do after office hours, he attended an acting workshop conducted by Angie Ferro at Fort Santiago.

"The participants were doing an improvisation on how to open a door. At first, *nanood lang ako sa kanila*. I thought they were unimaginative because they all had the same style in opening the door. So, I gave my comments while watching them, without knowing *na nag*-participate *na pala ako*. The following day, I decided to join the workshop," he says.

VELOSO. People still call him Mr. Truman.

After that workshop, there was no looking back for Lou. He appeared in Dulaang UP plays during the group's Babaylan days.

It was during his stint with Dulaang UP that he started to appreciate theater. "I didn't think about money and fame, all I wanted was to develop my craft. *Di pa nga natapos ang aming palabas, naghanap na naman ako ng bagong* assignment. For me a script was like a pocketbook. After reading one you have to buy the next one," he enthuses.

Villain

Lou's first big break as a theater actor was when he played the villain opposite Chinggoy Alonzo in "Juan Tamad Meets Paltos V," a musical directed by Jonas Sebastian at the then newly reopened Metropolitan Theater. That particular role led to his "graduation" from supporting to lead roles.

"Actually, the role was not originally assigned to me. I was supposed to play the role of a tree in the musical. But Vic Diaz, who was supposed to play the anti-hero, had to leave left for the States, so I volunteered to do the role. *Talagang nagpasikat ako kay* Jonas *para matanggap*," he recalls.

Lou also did plays for Bulwagang Gantimpala and it was 'Dingas na Langit,' written by Jose Javier Reyes that paved the way for him to act on television. Reyes guested Lou in "UFO," - the Mitch Valdes and Nanette Inventor starrer, where he played the role of Mr Truman. He was so effective in the role that Reyes retained the character and made Lou one of the show's mainstays.

Popular

Until now, Lou is still identified with the character. And because of that, he became a victim of typecasting. "*Lagi na lang* comedy roles *ang ibinibigay sa akin*," he complains.

Lou's love for theater is evident in his desire to keep the performing arts alive in Sta Ana. This is why he founded Tanghalang Sta. Ana in the early '80s.

Handling a community-based theater group is not an easy task. "*Mahirap silang i*-handle *dahil* come and go *ang mga* members. Sometimes, they attend rehearsals, *pero kapag di napayagan ng mga nanay nila, di na sisipot yan*," Lou sighs.

Sourcing funds to be used in putting up a production is another problem. "*Na*-experience *na namin mag*-solicit *ng* funds *kahit sa maliliit na sari-sari* stores *sa paligid ng* Sta. *Ana para makadagdag sa pondo ng grupo*," he reveals.

Despite these problems, Lou joined the growing number of show biz people who tried their hand at politics. Fortunately, Lou was successful in his initial bid as councilor in 1995. Three years after, he emerged the topnotcher in his second try as councilor.

Grateful

Lou is grateful that he has been able to initiate programs and projects which wouldn't have been possible if he were just an ordinary citizen in Sta. Ana. For the past five years, for example, Tanghalang Sta. Ana was able to stage the traditional *cenaculo*, "Martir sa Golgota," which has become a much-awaited event during Holy Week.

His long-time dream of putting up the Sta. Ana Arts Center which now serves as the home of Tanghalang Sta. Ana has finally been realized. So far, the one year old Center has been the venue for plays and rehearsals for other theater groups in the district. It is also ideal for conducting small workshops and visual arts exhibits.

"I'm looking forward to the day *na puwede nang mag*-present *ng isang* season of plays *ang* Center," Lou smiles.

Employment

Out-of-school children have always been a special concern for Lou. This is the reason he put up a Computer Learning Center where they are given the chance to be computer-literate and eventually find employment. So far, it has produced more than a thousand graduates.

Lou doesn't deny the fact that his dealings with would-be theater sponsors changed when he entered politics. "When I was still out of it, *wala talagang pumapansin sa amin kung hihingi kami ng tulong* sa NCCA, CCP *o* Japan Foundation. *Ngayon nasa politika na ako at nakita naman nila ang ginagawa ko, sila na ang tumatawag sa amin, nagtatanong kung may bago ba kaming* production," he relates.

'50 Rosaries for 50 Days' launched on ANC tonight

By Pocholo Concepcion

IT'S a good time to talk about family and values these days. For one, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo seems to be making efforts to bring back honor and esteem to the image of a "First Family."

Fulfillment

Another instance: Mark Victor Hansen, the celebrated author of the best-selling "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book series, is in town to promote the concept of "beingness" or the fulfillment of spiritual, mental and financial aspirations. His pitch in his motivational talks: make families stay together and "start building the Philippines from the inside-out all over again."

And speaking of making families do things together, here's an event that intends to demonstrate the power of parental and filial action:

To commemorate its 50th year of ministry in the Philippines, the Family Rosary Crusade (FRC) is mounting "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" – a nationwide campaign to encourage families, communities, church-based organizations and other interested groups to pray the rosary for 50 consecutive days starting March 25 until May 13.

In the Catholic calendar, March 25 is the eve of the feast of the Annunciation, while May 13 is the day the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared in Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

May 13 also happens to be the day before we hold our local elections.

Sense of purpose

Whether that's purely coincidental, the movers behind FRC believe the prayer series will realize its sense of purpose. "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" will feature 50 families, including Cory Aquino, Imelda Cojuangco, Bel Cunanan, Joe Concepcion, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen, Anita Meily, Mon Pedrosa, Mercy Tuason and others praying the rosary at exactly 10:25 to 10:30 a.m., from March 25 to May 13 on ABS-CBN. They will also invite the audience to follow their lead.

In 1947, Father James B. Reuter, S.J. received a phone call from a young Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. Reuter was then in radio school at Fordham University in New York and was asked if he could send radio dramas to Peyton's Family Theater productions.

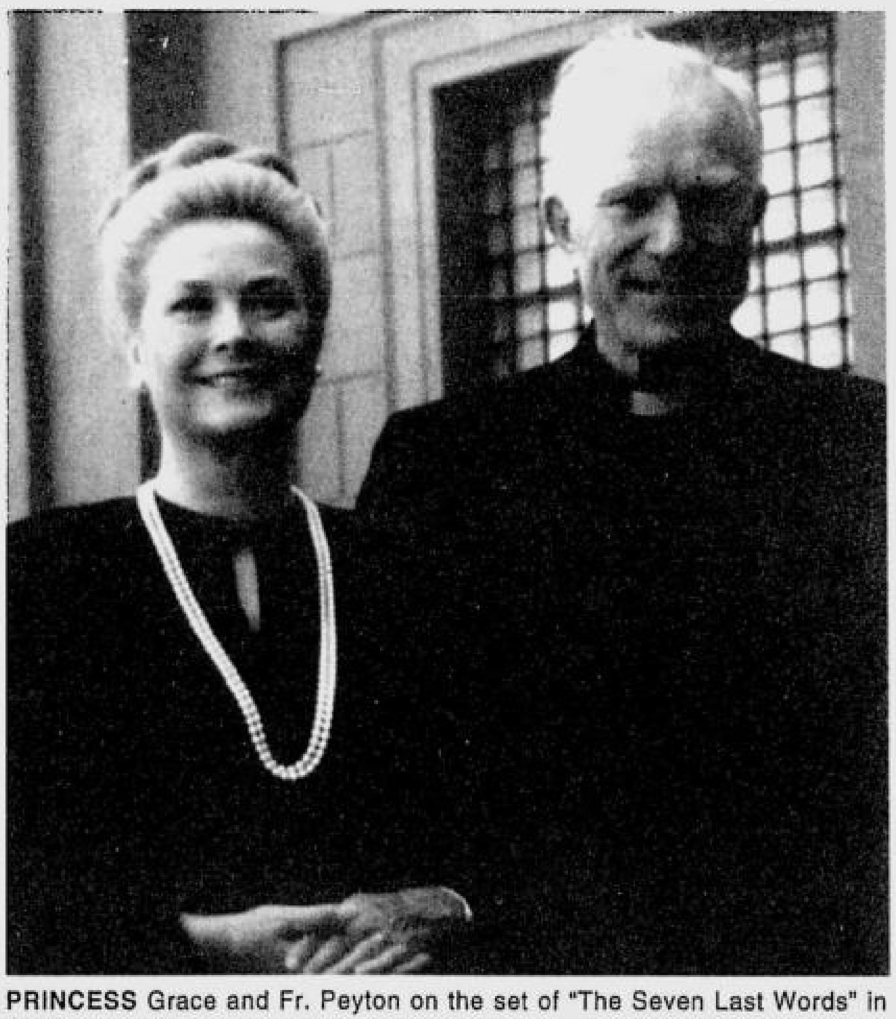
Family Theater was the groundbreaking radio show that went on to air in 338 stations across the U.S.A., starring the likes of Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Loretta Young.

The following year, Reuter launched Family Theater on radio in the Philippines. He remembers having produced live dramas that featured the voices of Daisy Hontiveros Avellana, Vic Diaz, Celia Diaz Laurel, Sixto Roxas III, Vic Silayan and Mitos Sison.

In 1952, the first plays to appear on DZAQ-TV, the precursor of ABS-CBN, were produced live by Family Theater. Reuter's "stars" then included now illustrious names such as Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Zeneida Amador, Tommy Abuel, Baby Barredo, Robert Arevalo, Tita Duran, Subas Herrero, Cristina Castaner Ponce-Enrile, Patsy Monzon, Tony Mercado, Pancho Magalona, Barabara Perez, Noel Trinidad and Tommy Syquia.

Hunger

"I'm proud to say that we have produced the many excellent actors. We have left a hunger for real human values in media. Now, many institutions are campaigning for a return to those values. I hope this is the beginning of a deep, strong, popular surge," says Reuter.



PRINCESS Grace and Fr. Peyton on the set of "The Seven Last Words" in 1982.

Today, Family Theater productions are periodically aired by FRC, which first ventured with a tele-magazine format on the then Maharlika Broadcasting System, now People's Television Channel 4. Currently some 15 hours of airtime weekly are given to FRC and affiliated productions on at least six major TV networks in the country.

It will be a fruitful golden jubilee. It has emboldened FRC to carry on faithfully for the next 50 years, the continuing evangelization of Filipinos through the family rosary and the affirmation of the truth in Fr. Peyton's famous slogan, "The family that prays together stays together."

As a warm-up for "50 Rosaries for 50 Days," FRC management led by Gennie Jota and production head Beda Orquejo has decided to hold a live telethon special to be aired today on ANC, the ABS-CBN News Channel. From 10 p.m. to 12 midnight, viewers will be asked to call through eight telephone lines and commit their respective pledges to pray the rosary anytime daily for 50 days starting March 25 until May 13.

Telethon

Prominent personalities Noel Trinidad and Subas Herrero, June Keithley, Pinky Marquez, Jacqui Magno, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen, Leah Navarro, Mitch Valdes, faculty members of the U.P. Conservatory of Music, Jeanne Young, Fr. Robert Reyes and Msgr. Soc Villegas are expected to grace the telethon to either perform musical numbers, act as volunteers to answer the phones, or give their respective testimonies in connection with praying the rosary.

The FRC board of directors is composed of chairman Leon Hontiveros, vice-chair Imelda Cojuangco, president Howard Dee, vice-president Carmelo Gomez, treasurer Susie Ortigas, asst. treasurer Tessie Daza, and members Francisco Alba, Felicitas Diaz and Susan Martin, and will be there in full force.

Ms Jota, who is calling the shots for the FRC golden anniversary activities, is firm in her faith that the telethon will generate enough interest among people to rediscover the beauty and mystery of the rosary. "Never underestimate the power of prayer," she reminds us.

Indeed, as Fr. Reuter recalls: "Father Peyton was only 30 years old when he lay close to death in bed at the seminary. His right lung had hemorrhaged. The doctors expected him to die that night.

Powerful

"Depressed, discouraged and hopeless, Peyton listened to the words of an old Irish priest, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The priest said, 'Pray to the Virgin Mary. She is powerful with her Son. She can cure you.'

"So Peyton prayed to the Virgin Mary with all his heart, remembering the gentle voice of his own mother: 'Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death…'"

What happened next was nothing short of a miracle. His lung healed and for the rest of his life, Fr. Peyton resolved to dedicate his work as a priest to Mother Mary.

(Pledges to "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" may also be sent to the Family Rosary Crusade, Rm 309 Pius XII Catholic Center, 1175 U.N. Ave. Paco 1007 Manila. Call 412-71-84, 412-7255, 412-7263, 412-7298, 412-7245, 412-7256, 412-7269, 412-7300, 521-6953, 524-2779, fax 522-0721, email peyton@familyrosaryphilippines.net or log on to website www.familyrosaryphilippines.net)

TWO FOR THE SHOW

More show biz and media personalities run for public office

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

"AAWITAN Kita's" Armida Siguion-Reyna has decided to go against another media personality, Teddy Boy Locsin, for the Makati congressional race. Though they are political opponents, Armida says that Locsin is a close family friend. "So, we are not about to throw mud at each other. But I believe that people know me better than Teddy Boy," she avers.

"I will look after the needs of my constituents if I'm elected—but I will never leave movie-making," Armida declares.

We deserve the government that we choose. We should all vote wisely or suffer the consequences again. It's alright to be star-struck, but we should look at the candidates' qualifications, integrity and sincerity.

Johnny Depp plays romantic lead in 'Chocolat'

Johnny Depp has grabbed his second chance to collaborate with Lasse Hallstrom, who directed him in "What's Eating Gilbert Grape." "I would do just about anything Lasse asked of me. And this is such a beautiful love story, with a well-written script. It fits well with Lasse and his interest in telling stories that actually try to say something in an entertaining, funny and different way," Depp enthuses.

Depp plays a rough-and-tumble character named Roux. "He's the kind of guy who lands his boat in a village, busks for awhile, then moves on. I though Roux would really be into the old blues, so this is the first time I've actually played the guitar on film."

Depp has played guitar on the two albums of the band Oasis, and with Shane McGowan. But playing the guitar did not totally provide the magic on film, his chemistry with Juliette Binoche did.

"Juliette is so beautiful and deep, she makes you instantly fall in love with her. She's an intensely committed actress and if art is possible in cinema, I think she comes as close as anyone can."

Juliette Binoche admires Depp as an actor, too. "He has a wonderful presence," she says.

Will it be a night for underdogs at the Urian?

The Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino has been a highly-regarded award-giving body ever since it handed out its first set of awards 24 years ago, oftentimes coming out with very sensible choices for their winners, regardless of whther these choices are popular or not.

Over the years, though, a few of their choices have raised eyebrows, and some say that the awards group has allowed itself to be influenced by a system which favors commercialism.

Even their manner of presentation is no longer different from the rest of the other groups. Their programs often last three hours, with more than half a dozen commercials per gap.

Tonight, the Urian winners will be made known to the public via a delayed telecast, and we certainly hope that this year's winners will bring the group back to where it used to be. Here are some of our thoughts on the potential winners.

Best Picture and Best Director. We feel that the group will give these two top plums to Regal Films' "Tuhog," a wonderful film by Jeffrey Jeturian with high artistic merits and outstanding performances. But if they do give these two awards to "Tuhog," we hope they won't shut out "Tuhog's" lesser-known cast in the acting categories. Chito Roño's "Laro sa Baga" will be a long shot, while Laurice Guillen's "Tanging Yaman" should be contented with its win at the filmfest and the Young Critics Circle, and Rory Quintos' "Anak" has very good intentions but these are

JOHNNY Depp and Juliette Binoche in "Chocolat."

certainly not enough to convince the Manunuri.

Best actress. Gloria Romero has never won an Urian. Vilma Santos is both consistent and compelling in "Anak," and unknown Irma Adlawan is exceptional in "Tuhog." We feel that anyone of these three actresses might just figure in a tie tonight, although Ina Raymundo, for "Tuhog," might pull an upset.

Best actor. If Ms Romero wins, then the Manunuri might just want to make it a truly sentimental evening by awarding Dolphy the Best Actor plum. Cogie Domingo is the underdog in the race for his powerful performance as the young drug dependent in "Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga." Dante Rivero is outstanding in "Azucena" and is touted to give Dolphy and Cogie a good fight.

Eddie Garcia is good in "Deathrow" but the movie's writer failed to make his character come full circle. Best supporting actress: Monique Wilson might just be "it" tonight because she is truly deserving for her felt performance in "Laro sa Baga." But Cherie Gil will definitely give her stiff competition for having reinvented herself. so well as an A-1 actress in "Sugatang Puso."

Best supporting actor. Jeffrey Quizon might be on his way to a grand slam this year as the young, swishy Markova (he already has the filmfest and Star trophies). We like Quizon but we think Nante Montreal of "Tuhog" is the most deserving nominee.

Sad outcome

MTRCB head Nicanor Tiongson has packed his bags after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo succumbed to pressure from the Catholic hierarchy and several self-declared '*moralistas*,' one of whom is a prominent but over-rated film director.

This director allegedly influenced some groups to pressure Tiongson to step down.

The sad outcome resulted from the eventual showing of Jose Javier Reyes film, "Live Show," after the Armida Siguion-Reyna-led MTRCB approved the film for for adult audiences. When Tiongson took over, he merely followed the rules and for this, he was punished. So sad that the administration had to resort to this, showing how spineless it is.

Concerned industry people are planning to contest this decision and are organizing protest rallies. And who's taking over from Tiongson? God help the industry, if an ultra-conservative is sworn in!

Singers on. . .

(From page C5)

and "As If We Never Said Goodbye," from the musical, "Sunset Boulevard."

Pops Fernandez's "Shindig" became a milestone in the concert scene because of its remarkable music, moves and visuals. A live recording of her concert has been cooked up by Viva Records.

The double CD features Pops' versatility as a singer, dishing out not just mellow music but some danceable cuts.

11 cuts

The album contains 11 cuts from the concert with three bonus tracks, including the theme song of "Gusto Ko nang Lumigaya." The carrier single is "When You Say Nothing At All," where Pops' son Robin played lead guitar.

Kuh Ledesma believes in sustaining the impact generated by her album launches through follow-ups in her shows. Returning on centerstage for the intimate celebration of her birthday last March 16 at the Republic of Malate, she gave the audience the chance to sing duets with her onstage. The concert title, "Duet With Me" was culled from her newly-released album under Viva records.

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MANAGING TWO WORLDS WITH HER GLOBE HANDYPHONE.

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Lolita C. Ramos
VP-CIO, Information Technology,
RFM Corporation
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International Roamer

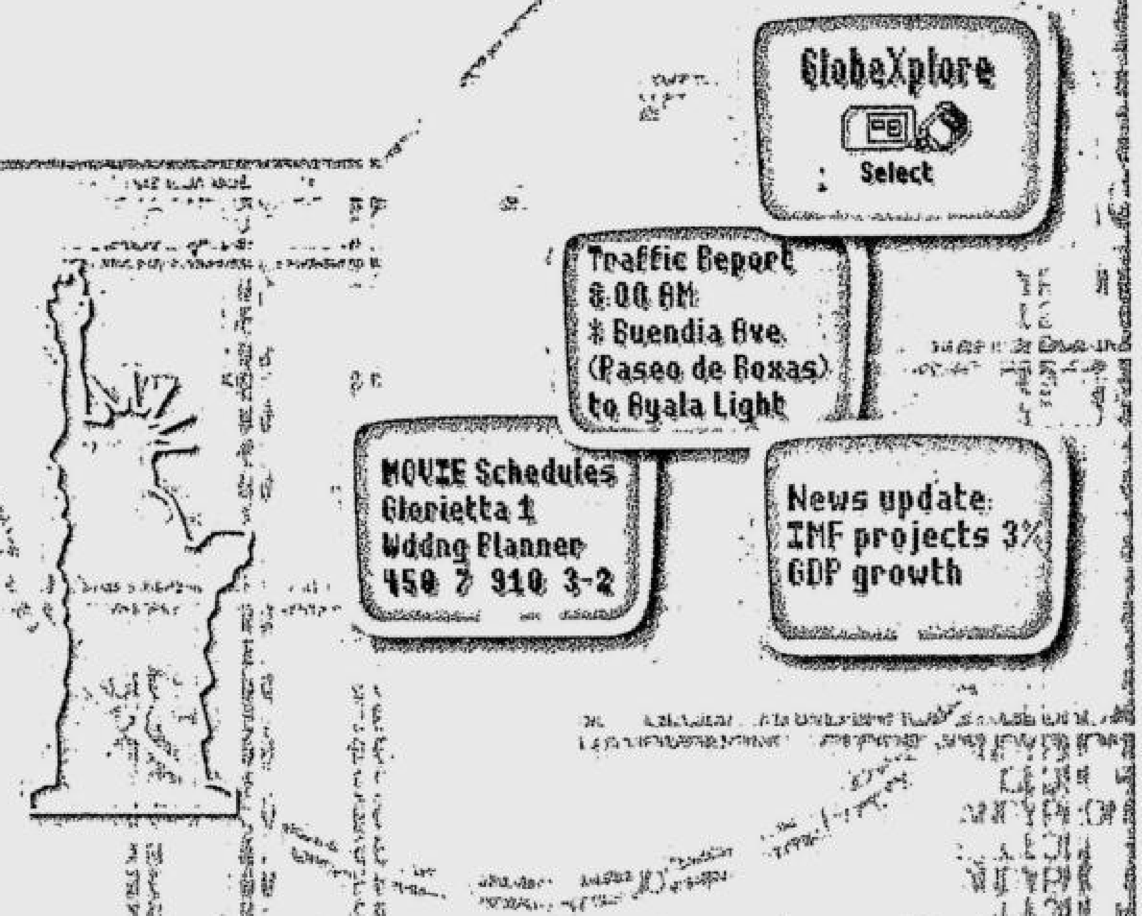
Lolit Ramos is the epitome of the modern woman. "I do a balancing act of running a home, with a husband and five kids, and managing a very dynamic information technology department of a big corporation. This I can sustain through constant communication," she attests.

Since she spends an hour and a half each day driving between home and office—which includes dropping off two of her'kids to school in the mornings—she manages both worlds remotely via her Globe Handyphone, equipped with her new GlobeXplore SIM card. "I try to be productive during the drive, like calling my secretary to get the day's appointments or discuss urgent issues with my staff. Since I barely have time to read the papers, I also access top stories and traffic reports. I get these all in a click," she recounts. "Coming home from work, I try to unwind and check for any interesting movies and their schedules from my GlobeXplore. Once, I remember my son and I were stuck in traffic and I watched him play X-men through his own Globe," she adds.

Even when abroad for seminars and conferences, Lolit is kept informed. "It makes me confident that I am still on top of everything while away. Before, when I leave for abroad, my attempts to call my family and my staff were limited since it's so costly to use the landline service of the hotel. On the other hand, it's so embarrassing to borrow someone else's phone," she admits.

"One feature that I really love and appreciate is the $0.40 a minute IDD call. As they say, it's anytime, to anywhere! Recently, I had to call my sister in the US through my Globe to follow up an item I had ordered through amazon.com. I had requested for the item to be delivered to her so she can forward it to me. Not only did I save on the item itself, but on my overseas call as well," she shares.

"While Globe is very innovative in the use of technology to come up with exciting services, I continue figuring out how to maximize that technology. With Globe, it's always a win-win situation," Lolit smiles.



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What does it take to be a VJ?

By Andy Bais

IT seems like only recently when radio lorded it over the scene as the source of our musical enjoyment, usually dished out by cool-sounding disc jockeys. The advent of musical videos on television has changed all that.

For Belinda Panelo, it is being confident in what you say or do on TV

No surprise

Now that music videos are in, it's no surprise that the disc-jockey's TV counterparts, the video jocks or VJs for short, have taken centerstage.

A recent VJ hunt conducted by MTV Asia attracted hundreds of interested applicants, a clear indication that many young people want to be as successful and popular as Donita Rose, who is undeniably the country's most successful video jocks.

Before she became one of Asia's hottest VJs, Donita's career as a movie actress was almost at a standstill. But she was able to turn her career around when she reinvented herself as a VJ.

But what does it really take to be a VJ? Is it just one's ability to speak well and look good on TV?

For popular MTV VJ Belinda Panelo, it is being confident in what you say or do on TV. "The other qualities, like learning to speak well, are abilities you can learn and perfect. But confidence is something that comes from within you, nobody can teach you that, " she stresses.

Scripts

Does that mean that knowledge of music is not as important? "Of course, it's very important. If you don't know anything about music, you're making your life harder. Although we are provided with scripts, if you don't know what you are saying, you will have a hard time delivering your lines in a believable and natural manner," she explains.

Belinda has been on the job for a little over a year now. She emerged as one of the two winners in the last MTV VJ hunt, together with KC Montero. She now hosts 'MTV Classic,' 'Diyes' and 'Mush.' She also co-hosts with KC 'Be Seen At MTV' and alternately hosts with KC and Sarah Meier 'Morning Talk' and 'MTV Lokal.'

After her more than a year stint with MTV, what has Belinda learned? Her quick reply: "That you have to learn to memorize and absorb information fast because we don't have idiot boards unlike our Singapore counterparts—they have teleprompters and other high-tech stuff."

She is glad that her MTV superiors have given her the freedom to ad-lib. But she warns that ad-libs shouldn't be done just for the sake of doing them. "They shouldn't be planned or rehearsed. I think they are necessary only if you're talking about topics that you are already very familiar with. It would sound more personal if you added something that came from you, rather thatnjust relying on what is in the script," she adds.

Flexible

Her being flexible is also a big plus. That enables her to work well with different types of people. The five shows that she's doing have different sets of producers. She admits that she's open to what the producers want from her. She has slowly become an expert at experimenting.

"In 'Classic,' my producers wanted me to look like a celebrity in the '80s and it was fine with me. So far, I have already experienced what it's like to be Madonna, a diva, a punk artist and even Michael Jackson! My acting background has greatly helped me in this regard," she gushes.

Meanwhile, a recent TV guesting of the VJs from MYX of Studio 23 in Martin Nievera's late night show provided some interesting information on the basic "requirements" for VJ wannabes.

When Kaz Castillo was asked what being a VJ meant to her, she said that it was the willingness to listen to, music outside of what one normally listens to because VJs represent everyone's tastes.

Clara Olaguer, on the other hand, expounded: "It means you have to watch a lot of (music) videos, you have to read up, and to listen to your writers, and ask them a lot of questions."

Responsibility

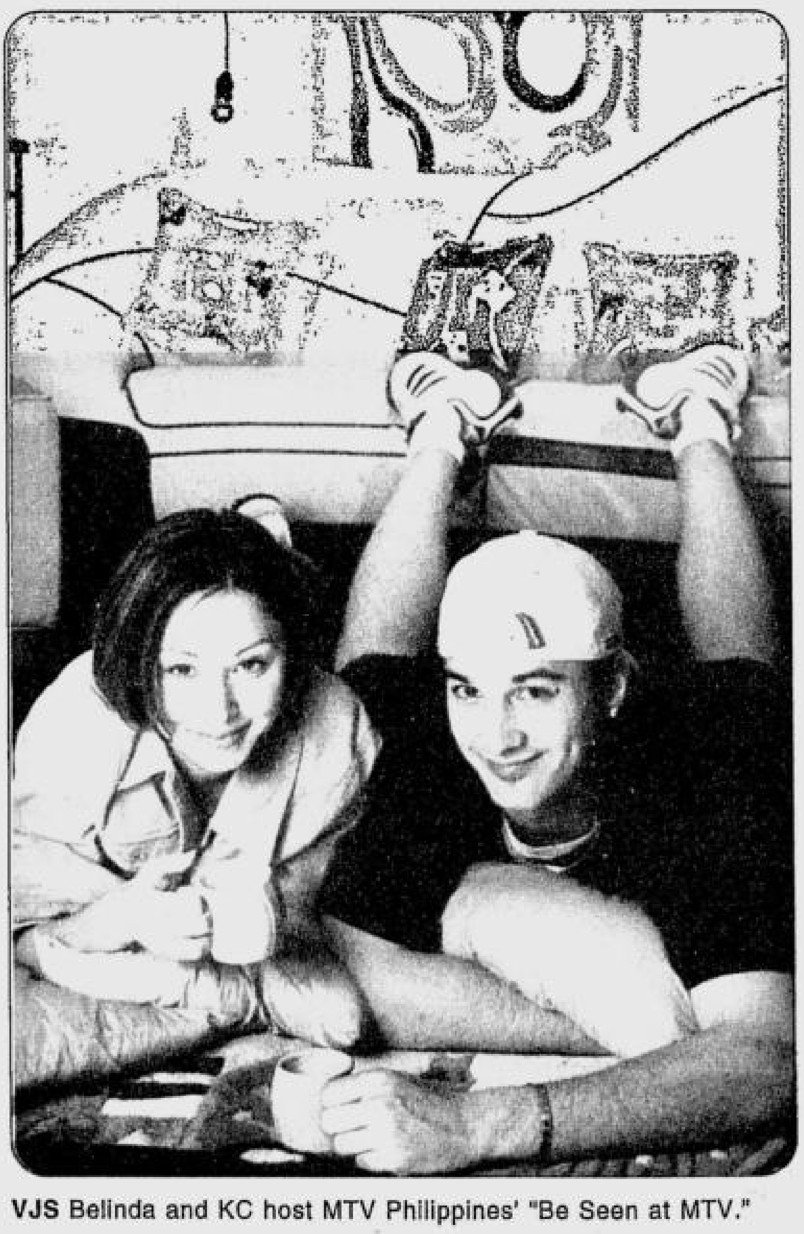
For his part, Martin had this to say about being a VJ: "It's not just one big party, definitely not. There is (a corresponding) responsibility – to properly introduce the (music) videos and at the same time, being a credible VJ."

Belinda agrees with Martin's observation. For her, being a VJ is not as easy as it appears to be, especially here in the Philippines, where technical resources are limited.

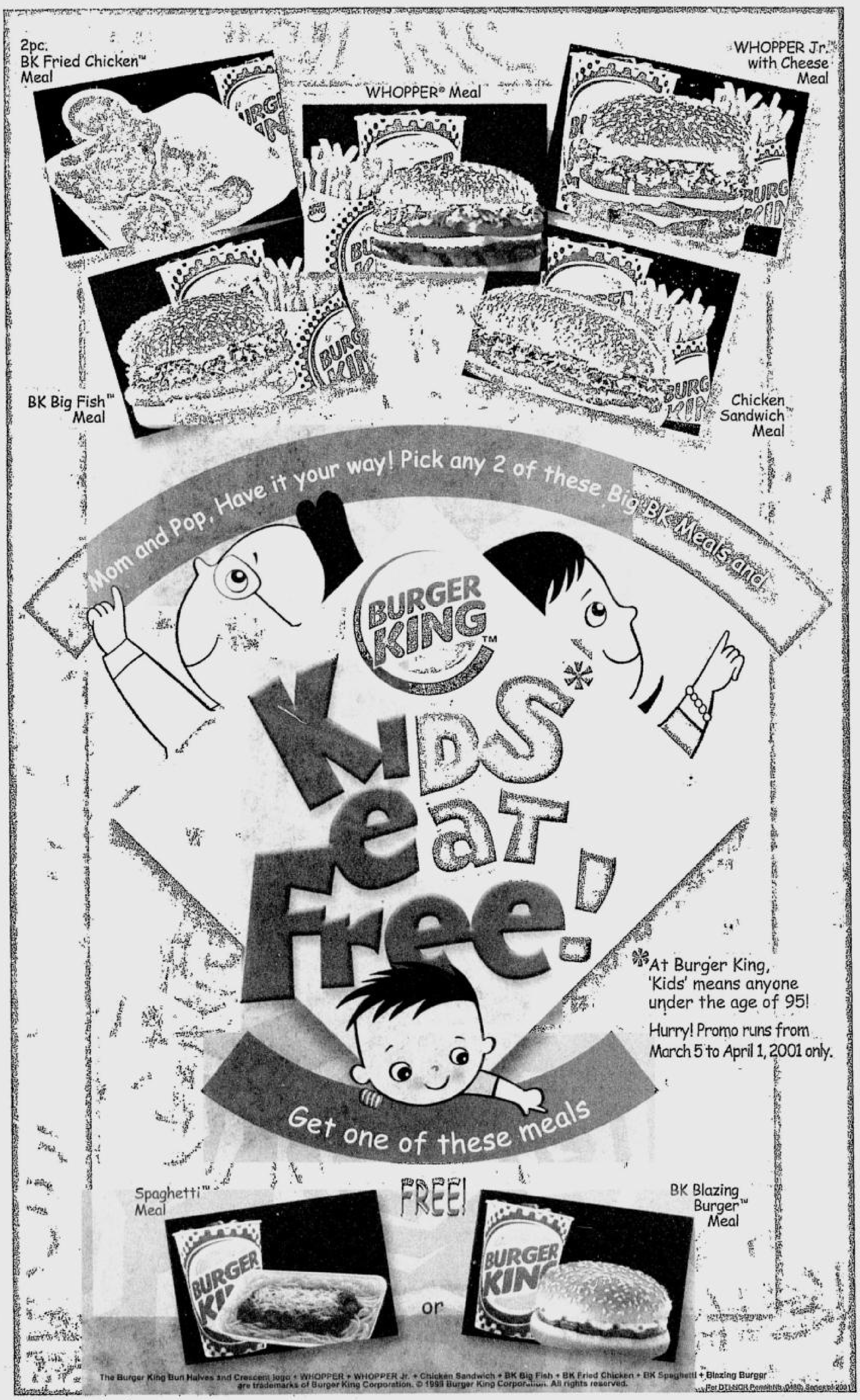
"The situation in Singapore is different because VJs are aided by teleprompters, so they don't worry much about memorizing their lines. They are provided with a stylist and make-up artist—so looking good on TV is not much of a problem. We can't also do so many takes during tapings here because there are other taping schedules lined up for the same studio," she says.

Despite these limitations, Belinda is still thankful that she's based here, because she welcomes challenges. "I think we are still able to put together wonderful shows even with limited resources," she beams.

DONITA ROSE. The country's most successful VJ.



VJS Belinda and KC host MTV Philippines' "Be Seen at MTV."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SERNA. Won Best Supporting Actress award for her performance in "Hahamakin Lahat."

10 YEARS AGO

More opportunities for women in the movies

By Noelani Torre

MARCH, 1991 was a month for glittering trophies and tearful thank-you speeches for the denizens of the movie world. The 13th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) was held, followed by the 7th Philippine Movie Press Club's Star Awards (PMPC). Stars vied to outshine each other but only the chosen few ultimately succeeded.

Victory

The CMMA was an overwhelming victory for Gina Alajar, who bagged both the best actress and best supporting actress trophies for her performances in "Andrea, Paano Ba Ang Maging Isang Ina?" and "Biktima," respectively. They were well-deserved additions to her already impressive shelf with its (all from Urian) three other Best Actress trophies, for her performances in "Salome," "Kapit sa Patalim" and "Brutal."

The Best Actor award was won by Christopher de Leon for Regal Films' "My Other Woman." The movie also won Second Best Picture, Best Director for Maryo J. de los Reyes, and Best Screenplay for Jose Javier Reyes and Jake Tordesillas.

The runners-up for Best Actress were veterans Nora Aunor (also for "Andrea, Paano Ba Ang Maging Isang Ina?") and Hilda Koronel ("Nagsimula sa Puso").

Lino Brocka's "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak" (starring Eddie Garcia, Dina Bonnevie, Christopher de Leon and Charo Santos-Concio) triumphed over the competition and won the Best Picture Award.

In the TV Awards, three programs were elevated to the prestigious CMMA "Hall of Fame." These were Susan Calo-Medina's "Travel Time" (Best Cultural Show), Vilma Santos' "Vilma!" (Best Variety Show), and "Balintataw" (Best Drama Program).

Channel 2 raked in awards for "Bahay Kalinga" (Best Public Service Program), Ryan Cayabyab's "Ryan, Ryan Musikahan" (Best Musical Program), "The World Tonight" (Best News Program in English), "TV Patrol," (Best News Program in Filipino), and Loren Legarda's "The Inside Story" (Best Public Affairs Program).

Not to be ignored, Channel 7 bagged the Best Children's Program Award for "Bulilit," Best Drama Program for "Lovingly Yours, Helen," and Best Institutional Program for "Negosiyete." Moreover, it grabbed the sought-after award for Best Station with Balanced Programming.

Channel 13 managed to steal one trophy from these two giants, that of Best Comedy Program for "Mongolian Barbecue."

Feat

The 7th Star Awards for the Movies of the PMPC gave away its own much-coveted trophies, but not necessarily to the same winners. Christopher de Leon, however, matched Gina Alajar's feat by winning both the Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor Awards for performances in "Biktima" and "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," respectively. Nora Aunor triumphed this time with her Best Actress trophy for "Andrea, Paano Ba ang Maging Isang Ina?"

Lino Brocka got the Best Director Award for "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," which earned 10 other nominations, among them Best Actress (Dina Bonnevie), Best Supporting Actress (Charo Santos-Concio), and Best Supporting Actor (Eddie Garcia).

Snooky Serna was voted Best Supporting Actress for "Hahamakin Lahat" and Fredmoore de los Santos was cited as Best Child Performer for "Angel Molave."

Vilma Santos was that year's "Darling of the Press" and Rene Requiestas, still flushed over his film "Pido Dida's" financial success, was the "Newsmaker of the Year."

Nominees

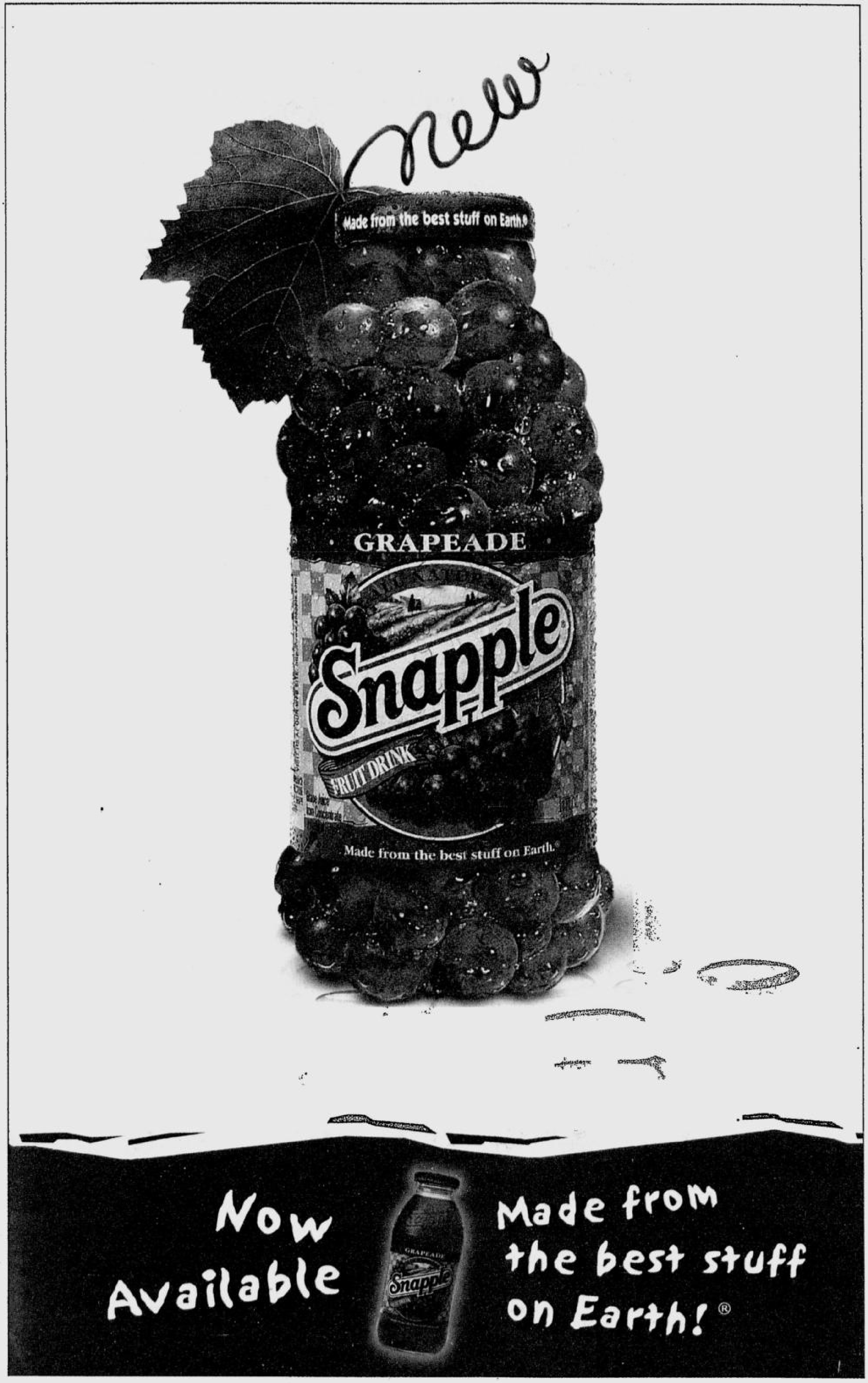
Meanwhile, in Hollywood, nominees for the Academy Awards had just been chosen. In the Best Actress category, the nominated performances showed more opportunities for women in the movies. Five actresses were then competing—three former Academy Award winners and two relative newcomers. What was significant was that all five roles were as important as those of their male co-stars.

The nominees were: two-time Oscar winner Meryl Streep for her performance as an actress with drug problems in "Postcards From the Edge." New York theater star Kathy Bates as a mad recluse who imprisoned her favorite writer in "Misery" (this was her first nomination). Former Academy Award winner Anjelica Huston for her portrayal of a con artist in "The Grifters."

Joanne Woodward, who won the Oscar in 1957 for "The Three Faces of Eve," was nominated for the fourth time for her performance as India Bridge in "Mr. and Mrs. Bridge." Lastly, Julia Roberts, who was then (and still is) "the hottest actress in films" garnered her second Oscar nomination for her portrayal of a Hollywood hooker in "Pretty Woman."

"I can't really whine," said Streep, "about not having opportunities. But there aren't many for actresses. You only have to look at the entertainment pages. You have to search for a remake name. It's fun to look at women and be interested in them. To be robbed of these images is really tragic."

We'd like to think that now, after 10 years, things have changed for the better.



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Dulce lightens up for her audience

By ANDY BAIS

(Conclusion)

Dulce shares that she now gets more offers for shows abroad—especially last year, when she had to leave every other month. Why is she that in demand overseas? "I think my recordings have helped me a lot. Based on my experience, Filipinos abroad want to listen to singers *na kilala na nila.* They don't take risk *sa mga baguhan.*

Popular choice

"Take Pilita Corrales, for instance—*hanggang ngayon*, she is still a popular choice for shows abroad. And also, Filipino audiences never get tired of listening to songs *na* identified *sa isang* singer."

Why is Dulce working so hard? "If you've experienced what I've been through, *siguro magiging masipag ka rin na katulad ko. Hindi ako nakapag-aral, kaya* I want to give my children a good education. That's why I've saved up for their college plans. I don't want them to be like me."

Urge

Dulce loves singing so much that nobody can stop her if she feels the urge to sing even in unexpected places. "Minsan, we were in Times Square lining up for tickets for a play. *Napakahaba ng pila*, so *nakaka-inip talaga. Tamang-tama, tinugtog ng isang* band composed of black street musicians *ang* 'Summertime' *kaya kinanta ko at nabuo ko ang kanta dahil sa haba ng pila.*

"As a result, *dumami ang barya sa* box *nila*! The people thought I was part of the band *dahil* ethnic *ang* looks ko."

Dulce hasn't recorded a solo album in 10 years. The last one she did included the song 'Maalala Mo Kaya,' which is still being used as the theme song of the top-rating ABS-CBN weekly drama anthology program with the same title.

Recording career

She is looking forward to resuming her recording career, hopefully within the year. Recently, however, she recorded her own version of Bette Midler's 'From A Distance,' beautifully arranged by Arnold Buena. The song will be included in a praise and worship album to be released by Viva Records and produced by Jeanne Young.

Like most of our local singers, Dulce still dreams of making it in abroad. "*Hindi naman masamang mangarap.* Making it internationally is an affirmation that one is talented, " she explains.

Some years ago, she auditioned for the role of Gigi in "Miss Saigon" and she was given a standing ovation by the production team.

Dulce has been described as an "electrifying" performer, and we were not surprised by the possible reason she gave for that quality of hers: "*Ilang beses kasi akong nakuryente* when I was still in Grade Five! Because of poverty, I had to work as a maid for my teacher. I made a deal with her *na papayag lang akong maging* maid *niya kung di na ako papasok sa klase niya*, but she had to give me a passing mark. *Mataas naman kasi ang* IQ *ko*, I already knew the subject well. In addition, *dapat uwian ako para di mahalata ng* parents *ko.*

Electric stove

"At that time, I never experienced wearing slippers. And the unfortunate incident happened while I was cooking rice on the electric stove. *Wala akong nakitang sandok*, so I used a silver spoon *sa paghalo ng kanin sa kaldero. Talagang tumilapon ako noon*!" she vividly recalls.

Had she not been a singer, what would she be now? "A make-up artist—*magaling ako diyan.* Actually, I can be anybody: a maker of handicrafts, a garbage-recycling queen—and yes, even a maid," she heartily laughs.

DULCE. Literally "electrifying" performer.

Furor over sexy films flares up anew

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE PAST few days in the film world have been unusually tempestuous, with moral activists bearing down on the movie "Live Show," MTRCB chair Nicanor Tiongson being pressured to stop the film's showing, his eventual protest resignation last Wednesday, a call to movie people to resist the latest infringement on film freedom, another clarion call from the other camp to wage an all-out war against pornography on all fronts, etc.

Part of the hue and cry is against what is deemed by some to be the unduly strong influence of the Catholic Church on the government, thus once again raising the issue of the separation of church and state on the one hand, and the opposite consideration of the church's concern about the country's moral order, as negatively affected by film and TV, on the other.

As more groups and individuals are drawn into the fray, some loose statements have been bandied about that tend to further obfuscate instead of clarify the already murky atmosphere. Let's try to clear things up in a more objective way:

First, there's too much hue and cry over one film, "Live Show." It is the wrong choice of movie to get so exercised about. After careful analysis, we must conclude that the movie is not very well made but it is *not* pornographic. It features nudity and a veritable smorgasbord of sexual positions, but shots are carefully masked to keep the level of prurient interest down.

So, why all this anger over one film? Perhaps it's been chosen as a rallying point for moral activists. But they would have had a less controversial time of it if they had mounted a campaign, not against one movie, but to protest the fact that half of the local movies currently being made and shown are sex-oriented.

This is a shocking statistic and is truly worth inveighing against. In fact, the condemnation wouldn't get any opposition even from Tiongson, because he too has bewailed this sorry trend.

So, moral activists, don't go to town on "Live Show." Shift your focus to the sex-film craze in general, and you will have a better chance of gaining the support not just of the public, but of some liberals and film people as well.

As for our movie people, they shouldn't make such a big deal about "artistry," because some of the sex flicks they produce are clearly exploitative.

Our film people would gain more points with the public if they admitted that, as a whole, the movie industry has gone too far in its depiction of sex onscreen—and pledge to clean up their act in the coming months.

Going back to our moral guardians, they should not make the mistake of lobbying to replace Tiongson with an ultra-conservative like the Moratos and Mendezes of boards past. To do so would only fan the heated flames of protest, leading to a further deterioration of the situation.

After the cuts that were made on "Schindler's List," and other lapses of good judgement, the public will no longer accept unenlightened censorship, so the new chairman and board shouldn't even try! ***(To be concluded)***

TV treats

Saturday, March 24 at 7 p.m. on Star Movies: "Never Been Kissed," starring Drew Barrymore, David Arquette and Michael Vartan.

At 7 p.m. on the National Georgraphic Channel, "The Photographers" features the magazine's photographers, among the world's best, as they reflect on their work and their art.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Homicide: The Movie" topbills Yaphet Kotto and Kyle Secor.

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Wild Passions" shows how Wildlife Filmmakers capture some of the most remarkable natural history sequences ever shot.

Julia Stiles puts on her dancing shoes

Julia Stiles is one of Hollywood's best young actresses, as proven by her fine performances in a number of challenging films like "Hamlet" and "O" (a prep-school version of "Othello.")

In "Save the Last Dance," Stiles adds dancing to her list of skills. She plays a former ballet standout who hangs up her toe shoes when her mother dies, and does some hip-hop dancing instead. Co-star Sean Patrick Thomas also gets to show off some fancy dance moves.

Joey acquires digital automation system

Recently, Joey@92.3 FM scored another first when it acquired RCS's Master Control, the only digital automation system that fully integrates the world's number one music scheduling software, the Selector.

RCS Southeast Asia Vice President for Technical Services Wayne Hampshire was recently in the country to personally oversee the installation of the new system.

"Joey will be the first radio station in the Philippines that will make use of this technology. Though the Selector system has been around for several years, what Joey's using now is the latest version that was only recently released in New York," he said.

Master Control does away with cart decks and CD players and helps reduce studio clutter by storing all station audio on hard drive, including songs, spots and production elements—providing a smooth, hassle-free listening trip from morning til night. No more worries of skipping CDs and dead air.

The new system likewise embeds live liners and other scripts directly into the program log, calculate exact airtime, and kills old copy automatically—making it easier for radio programmers.

RCS's clients include the world's biggest names in radio, TV and the Internet. It has 18 offices in 22 countries and has been the leader in the broadcast software industry for more than 20 years.

MTV Philippines launch party airs tomorrow

The MTV Philippines rebirth Concert will be shown tomorrow on UHF Channel 41 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sky Cable subscribers can check it out on Ch. 32, while Home Cable subscribers can catch it on Ch. 41.

Thousands witnessed the one-night gig that was headlined by foreign acts Collective Soul and Plus One. Barbie's Cradle, Brownbeat All Stars, Cynthia Alexander, The Dawn, Eraserheads, Grace Nono, Kaya, Lani Misalucha, Parokya ni Edgar, Passage, Pops Fernandez, Razorback, Rivermaya, Sandwich, Side A, Slapshock, Teeth and Wolfgang likewise took the stage in well-applauded numbers.

Star-studded finale

Divas, stars of the silvers screen and TV, comedy icons and musical delights headline the Year 5 celebration of Viva Cinema, the star-studded finale of the upcoming Philippine Cable Show 2001, the annual convention and exhibit of the Philippine Association of Cable Operators, which will be held on Thursday, March 29 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

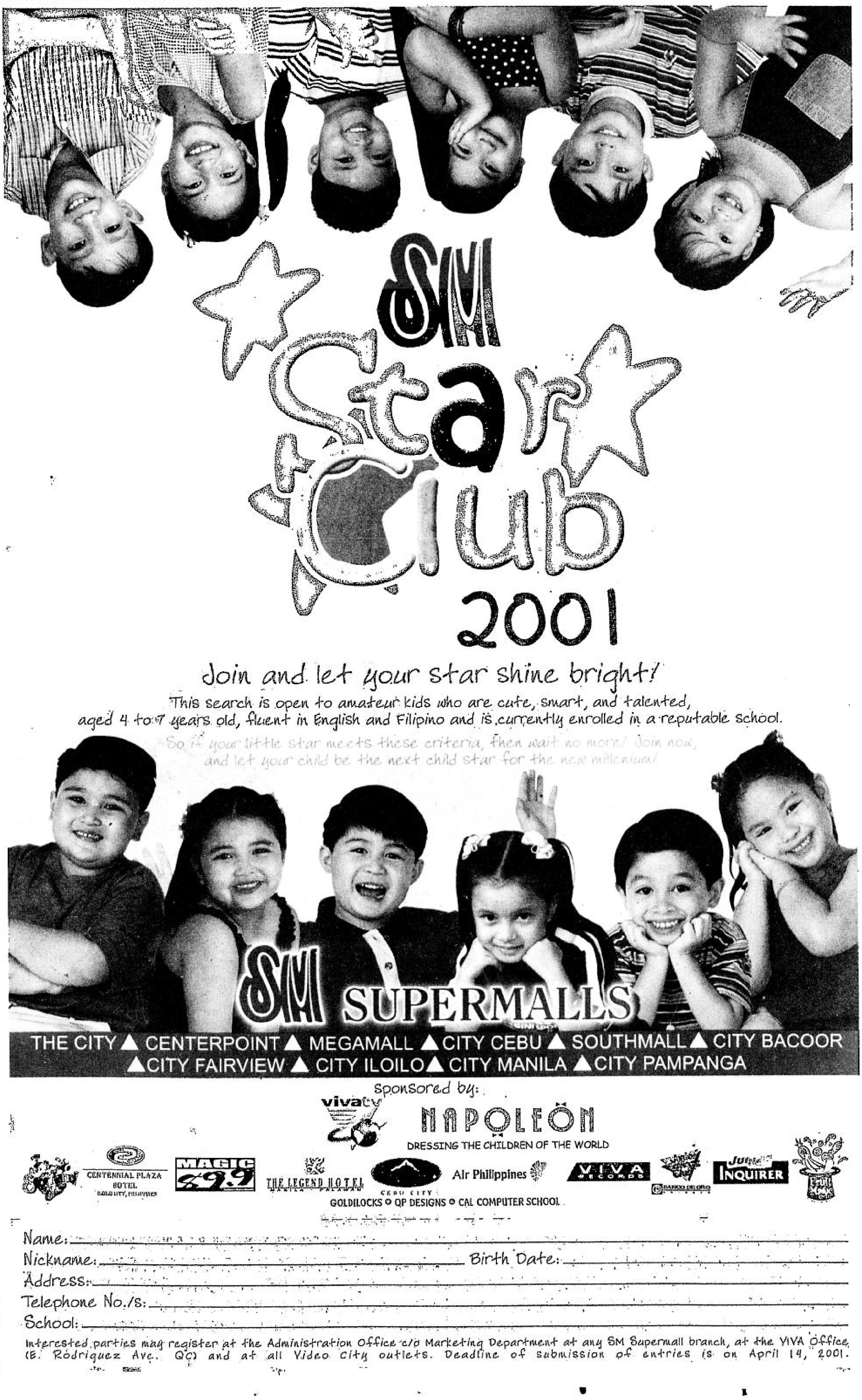
Slated to grace the event are stars from Viva Entertainment's glittering roster of artists as well as other celebs including Rica Peralejo, Arnel Ignacio, R&B band Mulatto, Marco Sison, Rannie Raymundo and teen sensation "Kaya."

Healing tapes launched

In addition to its holistic and psycho-spiritual services, the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry recently launched it's media evangelization project through the audiocassette tapes "I Need a Miracle," a collection of songs and reflections on miracles, hope and trust and "Healing Through the Way of the Cross, A Journey to the Heart of God," and a video cassette (VHS) tape "Healing Through the Eucharist."

These prayer companions are available at the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Center, 55 Scout Santiago cor. Rallos st., Q.C. Call tel no. 373-2384.

THE MULATTO band performs at Viva's birthday bash this Thursday.



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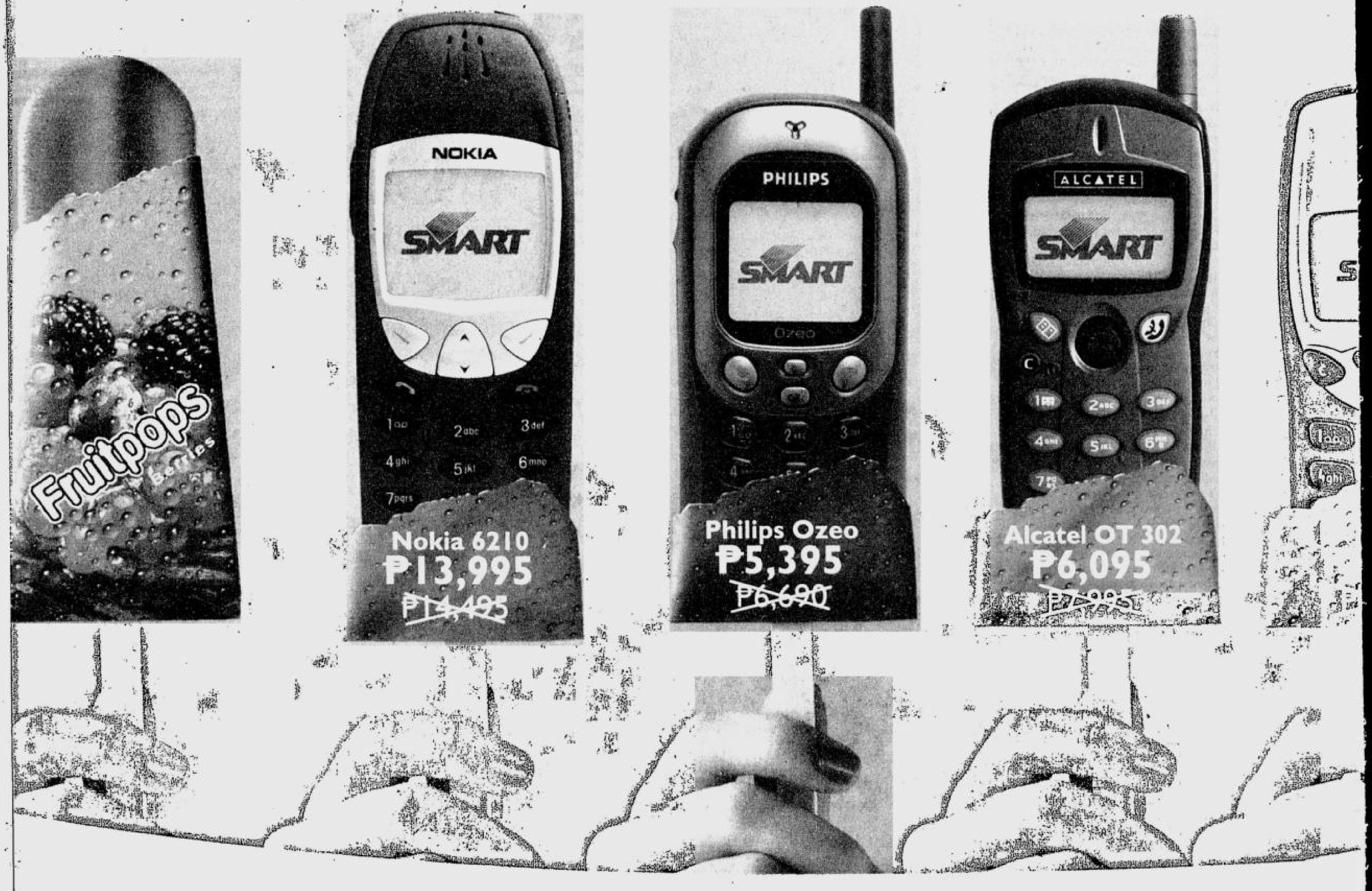
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Two truly beautiful women

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IN The last two weeks, I received a text message from Tirso Cruz III on the demise of two women related to show biz personalities: Corazon Noble, mother of the late Jay Ilagan, and Francisca Roses Revilla, wife of former matinee idol Armando Goyena.

Movie industry

Corazon Noble was once part of the movie industry in the 1940s, while Francisca was the original Camay girl in the '50s. I attended their wakes at Arlington Funeral Homes (for Corazon) and Mount Carmel (for Francisca).

When I reviewed everything that their loved ones related to me about these women, I realized that I was deeply moved by the lives they led.

Talking to Corazon's son Leslie (husband of Grace, who is the niece of Viring de Asis, aunt of Boots Anson Roa) and Armando Goyena, I learned that both women lived life to the fullest, were dearly loved by the people who knew them, and are already sorely missed.

PAQUITA and Armando with two-year-old Maritess in 1954

Mommy Cora will always be remembered for the perennial smile on her face. Cheerful and bubbly, she was the kind of woman whom everyone sought to have around. There was never a dull moment with Mommy Cora.

She also possessed great beauty that didn't go unnoticed. Corazon was discovered and taken in by Ylang Ylang Pictures some six decades ago during the time of Carmen Rosales and Rogelio de la Rosa. Many acknowledged her as one of the prettiest faces among her batch.

But more than her outward appearance was the lovely person within. As wife to Angel Esmeralda, she was loyal and faithful to her husband. After Angel passed away, she never married again.

Birthdays

As mother to Leslie, Jay and one daughter, Corazon was the kind of mom who'd give you a massage when your head ached or surprise you with parties during your birthdays and special occasions.

She treated all her children equally and was never remiss in correcting them whenever they made a mistake or did something naughty. Her children's spouses (Hilda Koronel, Amy Austria and Grace), will tell you that Mommy Cora was an unselfish woman who never gave problems to any of them.

One of the greatest legacies Corazon left her children was her religious faith. Growing up, Leslie recalled that Mommy Cora always heard mass on Sunday, would pray the rosary everyday and paused to say the Three O'clock prayer. Naturally, she also encouraged her children to do the same. She never harbored any bitterness towards other people or even about the tragedies in her life. When Jay Ilagan died in an accident years ago, and when her daughter was killed during the Japanese Occupation, Corazon never questioned God. Though she was never the same woman again after these misfortunes, Corazon stayed strong and unwavering in her faith.

ANGEL and Corazon, circa 1948.

Philosophy

"Never harbor hate in your heart. Always forgive and forget."—That was Mommy Cora's philosophy. No wonder Corazon made and kept a lot of friends during her lifetime.

Paquita, meanwhile, grew up with a silver spoon in her mouth. Beautiful beyond words (Armando said she reminded him of Jane Russell and Elizabeth Taylor), she nevertheless remained a simple woman. Her only foray into the limelight was when she became a Camay girl.

When she got married to one of the most handsome actors in show biz, Paquita opted to thrive under the shadow of her husband.

Armando describes her as a very supportive and understanding wife—"ideal for an actor." She never tried to change her husband nor limited him in any way. At the time Armando was touted as the "Golden Boy" of Philippine movies, so you can imagine the number of girls falling head over heels for him. Still, Paquita gave her husband enough freedom to be himself, while making him feel that she was with him all the way. Like Corazon, Paquita was also very loyal to Armando and never looked at another man.

Dignity

Coming from a family of means, Paquita was prim and proper and carried herself with dignity. She was also very sweet and loving. One time, she and Armando were separated for several months (Paquita went to Spain). When Paquita returned to the Philippines and saw Armando at the dock, she immediately ran towards the gangplank even before it touched the ground!

As a mother, Paquita was rated "incomparable," the type of mom who thought of her children first and always. She always thought of what to get for her family before she even considered her own needs and wants.

To say that she spoiled her children (eight in all) is almost accurate. In fact, her decision to stay home with her kids when she could've easily pursued a career in show biz was borne out of her great love for them. Even her grandchildren, who include Bernard and Mico Palanca, have fond memories of her.

During her last years, when she was stricken with a rare illness that rendered her bed-ridden, Paquita was a source of strength and love for her family. Even when she could no longer use her voice because a tube had to be inserted in her throat, she kept mouthing to her children (which they lip-read) to "take care of your dad" after her passing. She loved and cared well, and so was loved and cared for in return.

Legacy

As I reflect on the lives of Paquita and Corazon, I realize that no words could encapsulate how great a loss their passing away is to everyone whose lives these two women touched. But then again, the legacy they left behind only proves that there are some things that neither time nor death can steal—like love and happy memories.

As a tribute to Corazon and Paquita and as words of comfort to their loved ones, let me quote the lyrics of George Canseco and Louie Ocampo's ***"Ikaw"***:

"Ikaw ang bigay ng Maykapal
Tugon sa aking dasal
Upang sa lahat ng panahon
Bawat pagkakataon ang ibigin ko'y ikaw.
Ikaw ang tanglaw sa 'king mundo
Kabiyak nitong puso ko
Wala ni kahati mang saglit
Na sa iyo'y maipapalit.
Ngayo't kailan ma'y ikaw
Ang lahat ng aking galaw
Ang sanhi ay ikaw...
Kung may bukas pang tinatanaw
Dahil may isang ikaw...
Kulang ang magpakailan pa man
Upang bawat sandali ay...
Upang muli't muli ang mahalin ay... Ikaw."

Abanse! Pinay

(From page D7)

Under her leadership, the NCRFW, to quote the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), "has developed a model for training, advocacy, data and statistics collection, and analysis that has been shared with trainers in India, Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan and Vietnam.

"The Philippine experiment has generated a dynamic process that is being replicated in Indonesia, Nepal and four pilot countries of the Pacific.

"High-level government representatives from these countries participated in a study tour of Manila, resulting in action plans for similar national initiatives."

Remy's work with the NCRW) was her first government job. She came from the ranks of NGOs active in organizing grassroots women and men and community groups involved in credit unions, community-based health programs, community theater, autonomous women's groups, etc.

Audit staff

She was the first woman in the audit staff of what is now Joaquin, Cunanan and Co., after she passed the Certified Public Accountant Board examinations.

After six years, she gave up this high-paying job to go into development work. She took her MA in Economics at the Asian Social Institute (ASI) and worked in its Research Department.

This way, she became part of the movement that woke up the Christian churches in the Philippines in the early '60s on their role in social action. She has not stopped since. Even her work in the Philippine Education Theater Association (PETA), managing it from 1977 to 1986, was part of her commitment to the development of people.

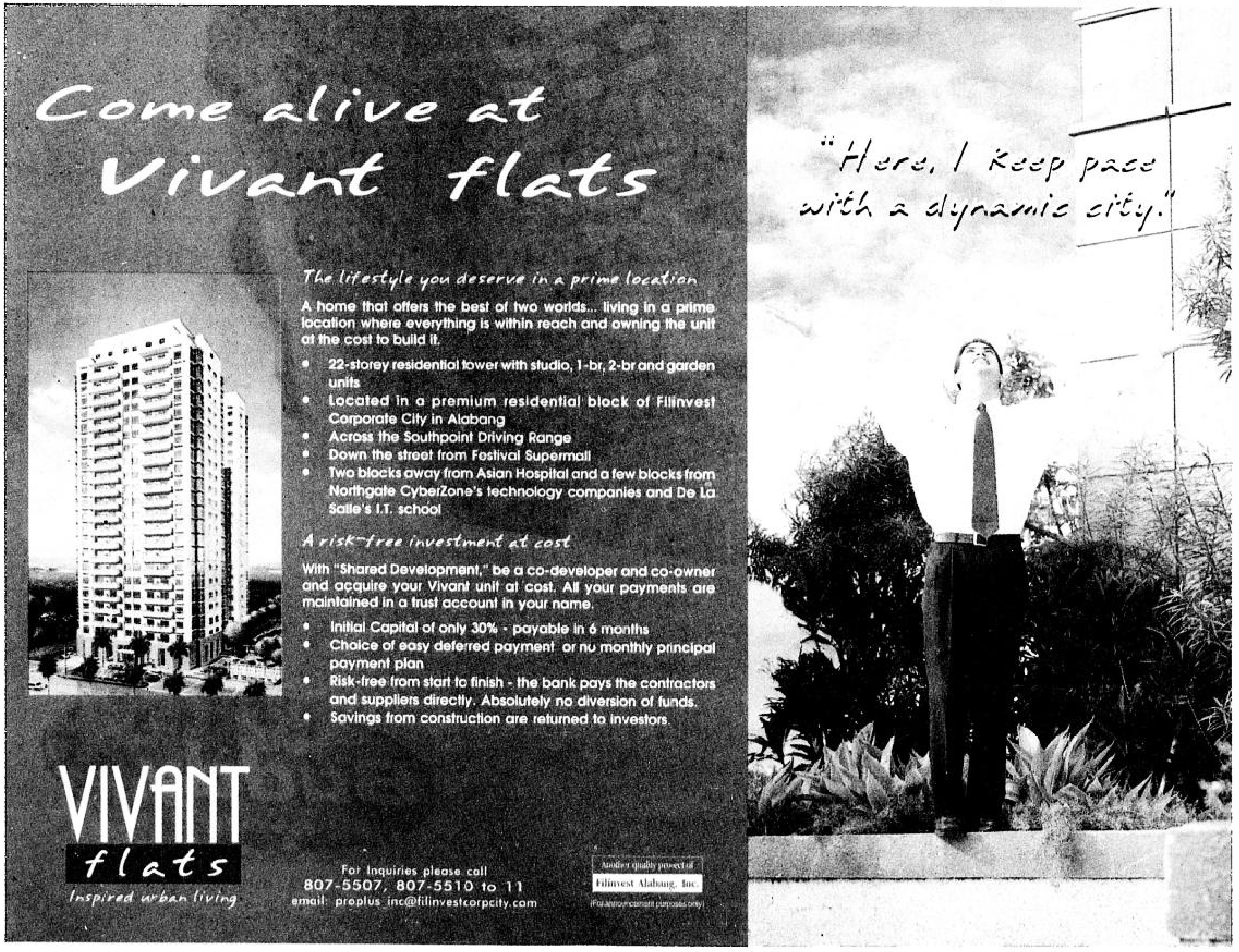
She has keynoted and attended various international conferences in connection with her work.

After her resignation, she went around the Philippines as National Coordinator of PILIPINA, the National Organization of Filipino Women, which she founded in 1981 with three other women friends.

In 1983 PILIPINA adopted Women and Politics and Decision-Making as its national thrust. With the growing interest in Women in Politics, PILIPINA established the Women in Politics Institute, Philippines, with Rikken as president.

She is one of the founders of the Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) and is presently its treasurer. She was one of the founders and past presidents of the Global Network of Women in Politics, and is presently its vice president.

FROM left, Andrea Lizares, Alice Morada, Pat Sarenas amd Remy Rikken.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Abanse! Pinay

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

(Conclusion)

REMEDIOS Ignacio-Rikken was appointed by President Corazon C. Aquno as Executive Director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) in 1986.

Programs to benefit women

She was re-appointed by President Fidel V. Ramos to a term ending in May, 1994.

In her eight years in government, she re-oriented the Commission's role from project execution and organizing women to influencing and monitoring government policies and programs to benefit women.

She spearheaded the Philippine Development Plan for Women (PDPW), the first-ever-blueprint to mainstream women's concerns in development. The plan was a companion piece to the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (1987-1992).

Because of this accomplishment, the Commission was mandated by the president to undertake massive training and re-orientation of government line agencies, politicians and civil servants to implement the plan.

The present Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development (1995-2025) is the successor plan to the PDPW, which was approved by President Ramos and his cabinet in September, 1995. The mandate to mainstream gender and development was further strengthened.

ABANSE/ p. D6

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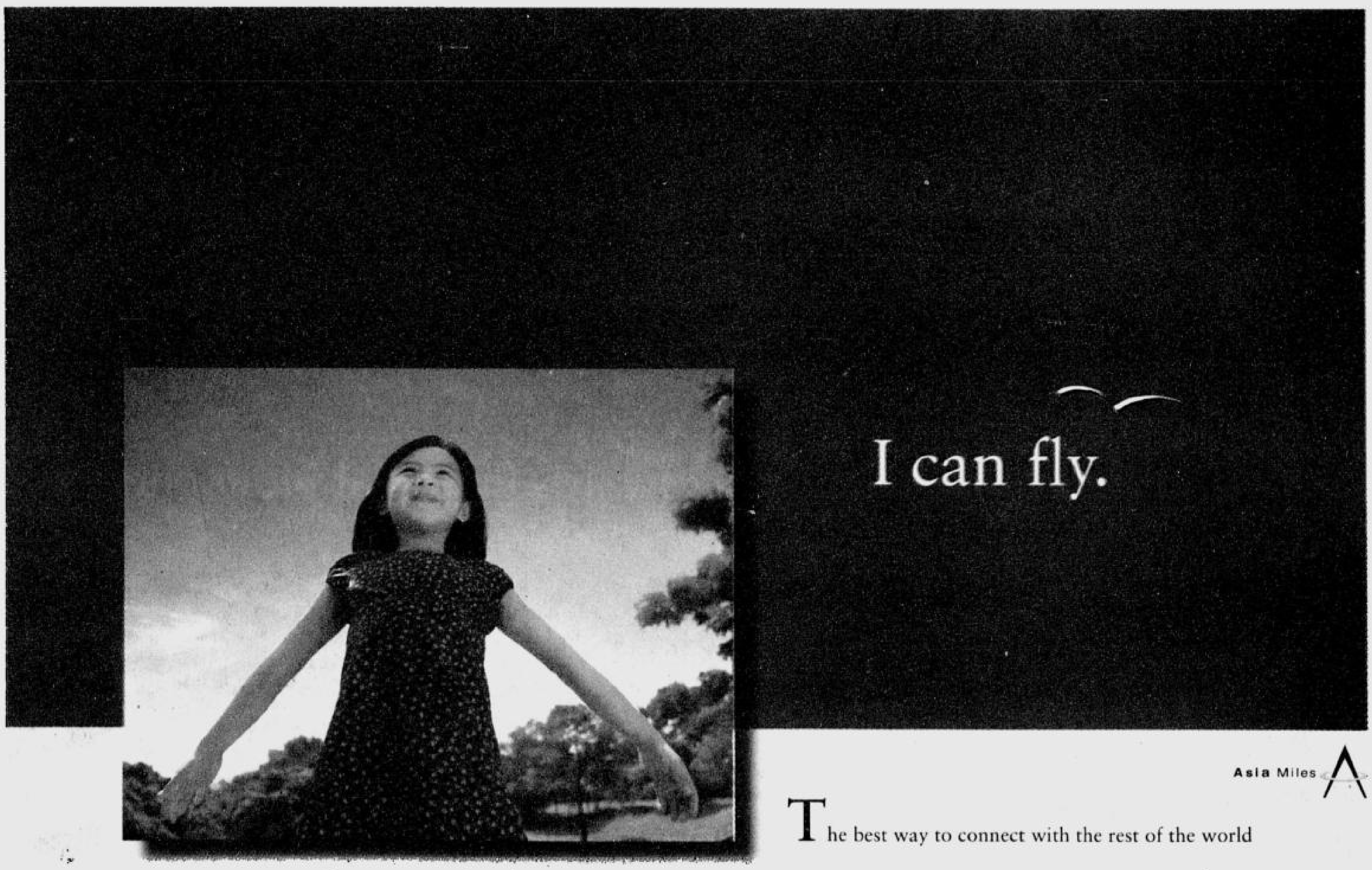

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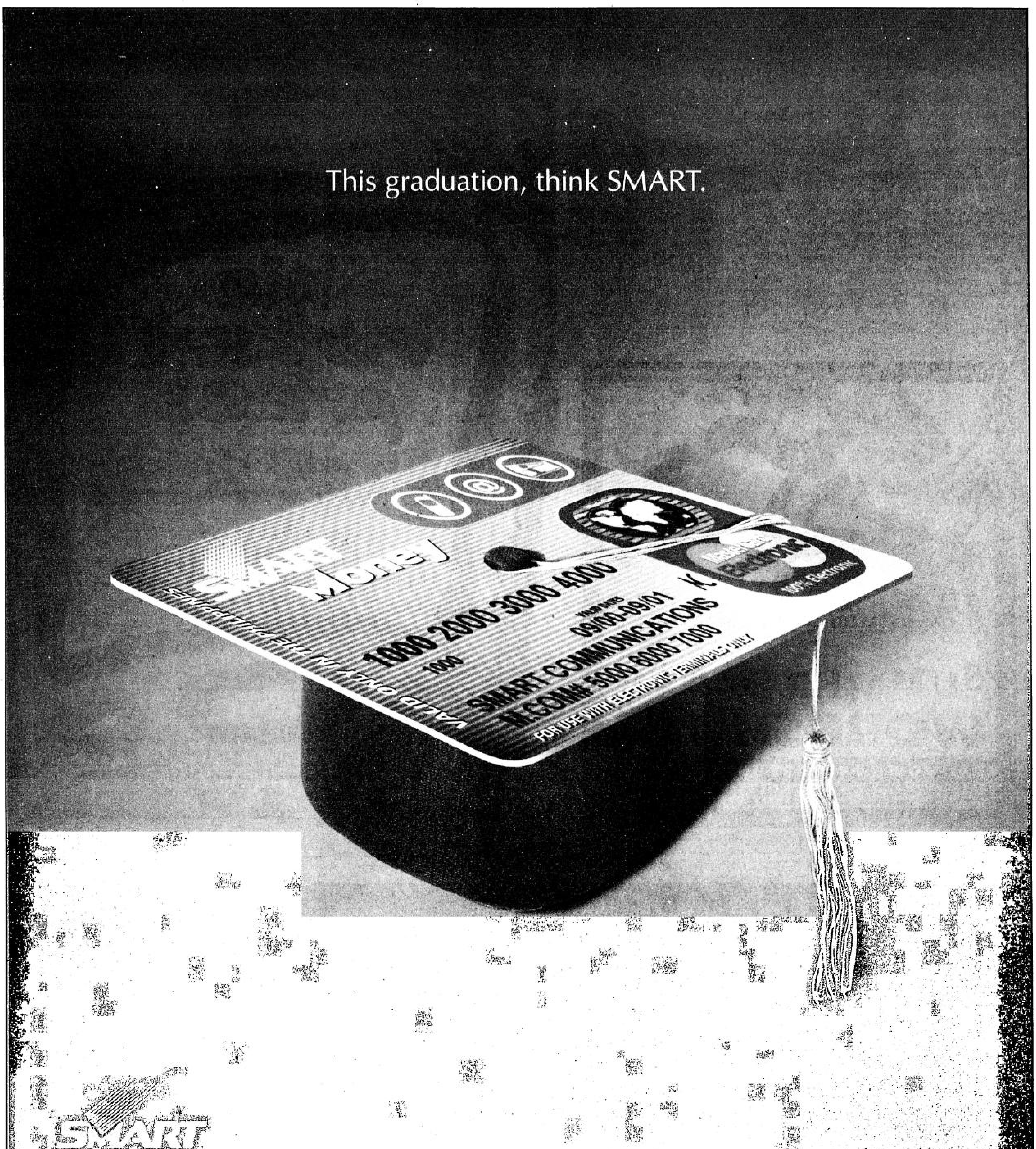
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'Sesame Street' shows children how artists make life brighter

By Frazier Moore

BIG Bird from PBS's "Sesame Street" looks over the shoulder of artist Chuck Close in Close's New York studio.

NEW YORK —You don't have to be a kid to love Chuck Close's paintings. It's grown-ups who hang his mural-size portraits in museums and galleries around the world.

Magic

But what youngster could resist? Close's jiggy globule shapes are arranged in rows and rows which, as you back off from the canvas, meld like magic into someone's colossal, photorealistic face!

Abstract and realistic, all in the same painting! How does Close do it? "Sesame Street," in the avian person of Big Bird, is visiting Close to find out.

In one "Sesame" interlude, Big Bird asks Close to explain what sort of art he makes.

"I like to make big colorful paintings with lots of funny shapes in them," he replies.

"Wowww!" says Big Bird. "May we see one now?" They do, as does the sure-to-be-delighted audience.

The one-minute vignette, aired earlier this month, is among three Close encounters of the "Sesame Street" kind.

Like Close's painting style, these small features are part of a bigger picture on view throughout "Sesame's" 32nd season.

Creative process

It's aimed at helping youngsters understand the creative process, with music and visual art as focal points. And it extends beyond the TV show to the "Sesame" Web site and to educational materials prepared for parents and teachers.

"We're doing it in two phases," says co-executive producer Arlene Sherman. "First, we want to cultivate in children an appreciation of art. The other part is to encourage creativity in them: Everyone is an artist, and art is more about the process than the finished product."

During 2001, Muppets Elmo, Baby Bear and Telly will put on a play, Rosita will draw the residents of Sesame Street, and Elmo will sit in as drummer in Oscar's All-Grouch Band.

Special guests include singer Diana Krall, percussionist Evelyn Glennie, blues legend B.B. King, actors Whoopi Goldberg and Robert De Niro, and photographer William Wegman, as well as Close.

To tape the segments with Close, a "Sesame" entourage of a dozen-plus has mobilized at his Greenwich Village studio, where a long day is lengthened all the more by soundtrack-spoiling rumbles from the subway, which passes beneath with exasperating frequency.

While lights are adjusted, Caroll Spinney, the silver-haired chap who literally inhabits Big Bird, stands alongside Close and waits, momentarily freed from the yellow-feathered head and torso now perched nearby on its rack.

Wheelchair

Close, with a bald head and gray goatee, is in a wheelchair. A decade ago, he was paralyzed by a stroke and painstakingly learned to paint all over again.

Himself a star in the art world, the 60-year-old Close has hobnobbed with plenty of celebrities, and is friends with more than a few, but this is his first brush with Big Bird.

It turns out they're birds of a feather: Before Spinney became a puppeteer, he planned to be an artist and still paints as a hobby. He and Close kill time talking shop.

"I thought about Chuck Close for a couple of reasons," says Sherman later by phone.

"He's great for young children, who have no problem looking at the abstractions his work seems to be up close: Children have a freedom and creativity that adult spectators often lose.

"He's a wonderful role model for us, too," she adds. "He has overcome a real disability, which offers a powerful message to children that they can rise above theirs.

"He's also a lot of fun."

In Wednesday's segment, Chuck will be seen drawing a self-portrait while Big Bird works on his own. On March 23, the two of them discussed painting techniques, including how colors are blended.

Children

"When children watch this, they can imagine what a life in art might be like," Close says. "But I also think it's important for kids who learn differently and who have a more visual side to them to find something to interest them, something they can excel at."

He should know. Among other childhood trials, Close experienced dyslexic-like learning disabilities for which there was no effective treatment.

"Thank God I had art and music, where I had skills that my classmates didn't have," he says. "Art saved my life."

But more to the point for kids meeting him and other artists on "Sesame Street," art makes life more interesting and fun—for doers and beholders alike.

"Societies need artists," Close says. "But the other half of the equation is, we artists need people who like art."

AP

> 'Societies need artists,' Close says. 'But the other half of the equation is, we artists need people who like art'

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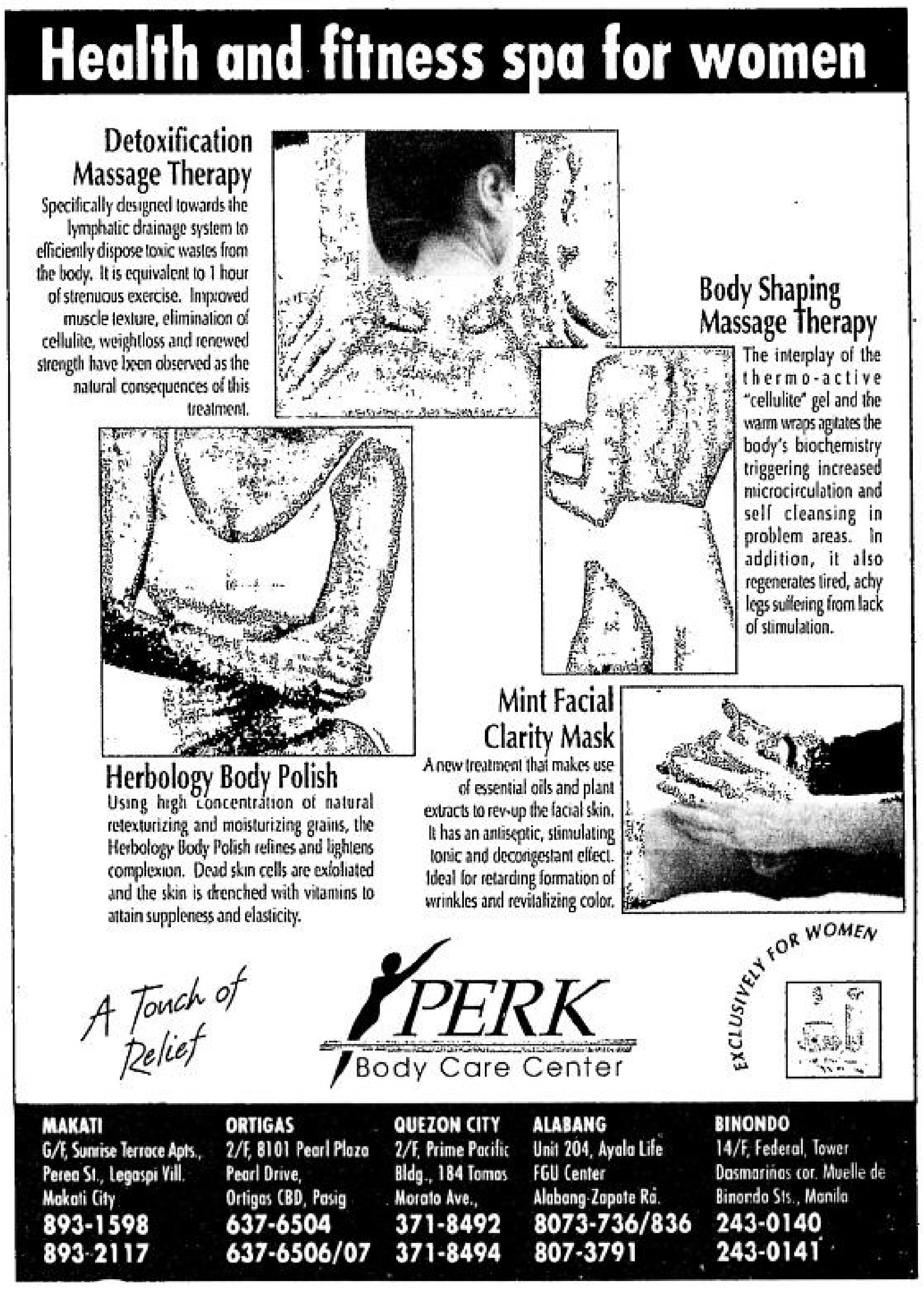

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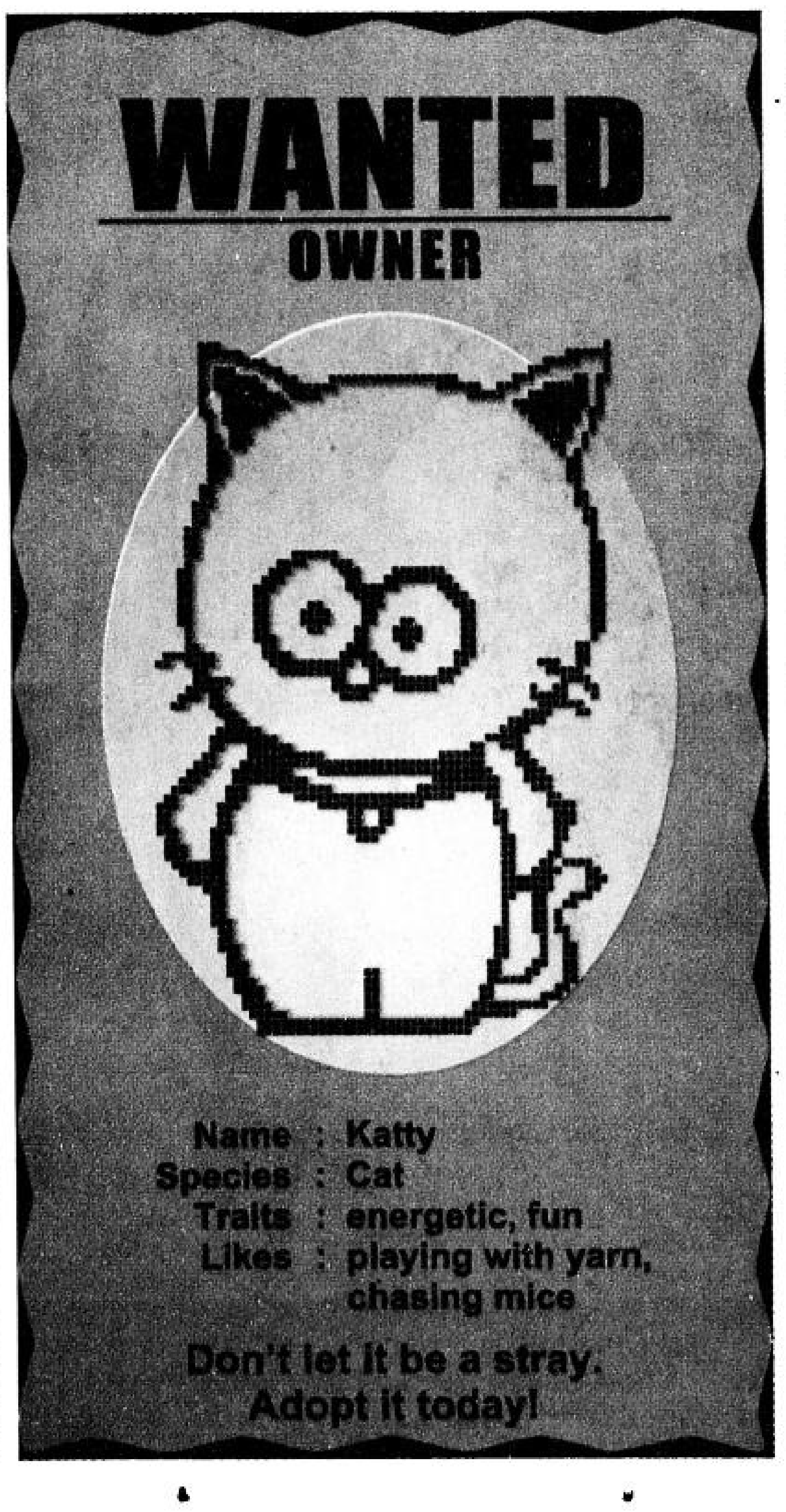
Species : Dog
Traits : loyal, dependable
Likes : exercise, fetch sticks, roll in the mud
Trained to be a good companion.



WANTED
TRAINER
Name : Toothy
Species : T-rex
Traits : strong, rough
Likes : destroying toys
Needs someone to tame it.

Tale of two presidential children in show biz

By Edmund L. Sicam

PRESIDENTIAL children Kris Aquino and Mikey Arroyo are alike in many ways: Both are Ateneo graduates, she majoring in English Literature, he in Interdisciplinary Studies. Both are in show business.

After making several movies, Kris discovered that she was better at TV hosting and has become a leading personality on the boob tube. Mikey has played supporting roles in his last 12 movies and is currently finishing a movie with Judy Ann Santos, "Mahal Kita, Kahit Sino Ka Man," where he plays the lead for the first time. Both are politically-aware individuals.

Outgoing

Kris and Mikey also present an interesting study in contrasts. She is outgoing and outspoken, while he is more low-key.

For instance, when Kris moved from her morning show to replace Korina Sanchez as host of "Balitang K," now renamed "Balitang Kris," ABS-CBN organized a major press conference attended by many show biz writers. In contrast, Mikey invited five writers to an early afternoon snack at a Quezon City restaurant to update them on his latest movie as well as his decision to run for Pampanga's second highest position.

In the inaugual show of "Balitang Kris, she featured her brother Noynoy with whom she hasn't spoke to in many, many years. Their making up became the subject of the TV show. No other TV host could get away with featuring his or her brother and make it a relevant show.

News reader

Kris admitted that she was told that she could never be a news reader because viewers would be distracted by her being a news figure herself. She also realizes that since she is now doing a show that is co-produced by News and Public Affairs, she has to change her image from someone identified with show biz to someone who is more news-oriented.

ARROYO AND AQUINO. Interesting study in contrasts.

Thus, in the next six months, Kris will gradually be phased out from "The Buzz," so she can concentrate on her new identity. She realizes this is something that has to be done if she's serious about her news personality.

On the other hand, Mikey doesn't seem to have a problem convincing his constituents that he is not just another actor running for public office. He is someone they have dealt with in the past, working for their welfare.

Of course, many would say that he is using his close links with Malacañang to promote his candidacy. In this regard, he has said that he is campaigning without GMA's endorsement even if he is running under the administration party.

Even in non-political matters, he is careful not to throw his weight around. Once he was accosted by a PSG person because he was about to enter a door in Malacañang marked "For the Use of the First Family." Instead of getting angry and berating the guard, he chose to leave.

Although he has a room in the Palace, the one formerly occupied by Bongbong Marcos, he prefers to stay in their La Vista residence. He does have a few items of clothing in Malacañang.

No special treatment

When he is shooting a movie, he always comes on time. He doesn't demand special treatment and his security guards are not that visible.

Why this effort to downplay his relationship to the President?

Mikey believes, "*Sabit lang ako.* I was never elected to this position. It's a temporary situation. My mom won't be president forever."

In fact, when GMA took her oath of office, it didn't hit him that she was already the president of the country. He wasn't even dressed for the occasion. His mom had to call him to wear a barong because Chief Justice Davide was about to swear her in. He only realized what happened when he was interviewed on TV one week after the oath-taking.

Can he dance as well as his mom?

"No, I can't—but I sing better than her," Mikey replies with a naughty smile.

Determining the right category for a performance in film awards

By Nestor U. Torre

DANTE Rivero looked peeved on TV. He was complaining that his performance in "Azucena" was variously categorized as Male Lead and Male Supporting Player in several movie awards deliberations. What was his proper category?, he wanted to know.

Problem

This problem of determining a performance's proper classification has been with us for a long time. The matter is complicated locally because it isn't clear in these parts who should assign the category—and why.

Sometimes, it's the movie's producer who decides which category a performance should fall under. The reason for his decision is sometimes subjective—he may decide that a clearly lead performance should be billed as a supporting portrayal because he feels that it would stand a better chance of winning the award in the "lesser" and hopefully less stringently competitive category.

Central situation

What are the more objective yardsticks? Simply put, a lead character is directly involved in the central situation, issue or conflict in a movie, and in its development and resolution.

The most important character is called the protagonist. Once the protagonist is identified, he or she is categorized as a lead character.

But what if a movie has two protagonists, which is the case in a "buddy" story? If the roles enjoy pretty much equal exposure, then both buddy characters are leads.

Importance

Other movies about groups of people have more than two protagonists. Generally, however, not all of these characters are of equal importance, so only two or at most three of them would probably fall into the lead category.

What about the protagonist's co-star, his or her leading lady or leading man? The co-star would be playing a lead role only if he or she is as directly involved in the main situation as the protagonist.

In other words, if the theme of a movie is related to the male protagonist's fight to vindicate his name, and he happens to have a love interest, his leading lady's performance would be deemed a supporting portrayal.

But if the movie is about their love story, then both male and female stars' performances would be of lead status.

If people people hew to more objective yardsticks like these, there would be fewer problems when it comes to assigning performances to their proper categories in film award competitions.

Finally, we must stress that deciding on categories shouldn't be done by producers, but by the organizers of film awards, who should base their decisions on actual viewing of the films the performers appear in.

That way, wrong decisions would not be made, in a subjective attempt to boost an actor's chances of winning an award in a less competitive category.

Option

An additional stipulation: After the awards organizers assign performances to categories, the members of the board of judges should have the option of changing the categories, if in their considered opinion after viewing the movie, a performance has been assigned to the wrong category.

The logic here is that the awards reflect the opinion of the judges, so it is their right to decide on everything related to that opinion. After all, when an award is held up to question or even to scorn, it is the judges' reputation for coming up with wise verdicts that suffers.

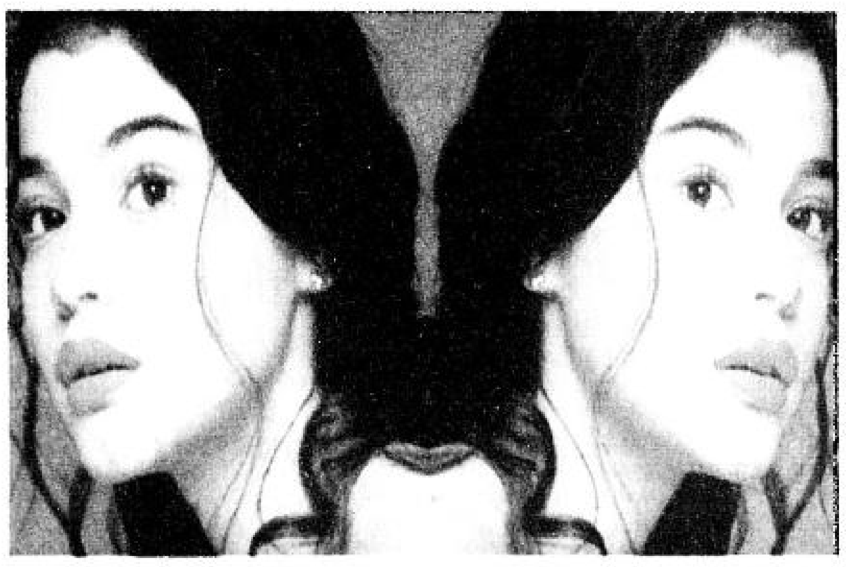
Photography and technology make stars more glamorous

By Jocelyn Valle

NO, don't hate Penelope Cruz and the other pretty young things who rule women's and fashion magazines. Remember that what we see in glossies is the result of good photography – perfect backdrop, lighting, angles, shots, make-up, costumes, models and lately, computers to achieve that super-perfect look.

Good use

One local publication that makes good use of technology is Agenda magazine, which generated mixed reactions when it debuted in the market five years ago with its fantastic covers and phantasmagoric photo spreads. (Thankfully, it has started producing simple and quiet but nonetheless powerful images.)



THE "TWIN" shot of Anne Curtis illustrates the good use of technology in a photograph.

PHOTOGRAPHY/p. E3

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MONTEMAR

MICHELLE Yeoh in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

At the Oscars, these countries are winners all

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

SO, it's Taiwan that will "slug it out" for Asia in this year's Oscar derby with the mesmerizing "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," directed by Ang Lee. Again, this writer stresses, Taiwan could have had the Philippines as companion in the Academy Awards if only we knew which film to send (remember our "Send 'Bayaning 3rd World' to the Oscars" campaign?).

Nomination

But other than that small island south of China, which other countries have, once again, beaten the Philippines for a nomination in this year's Oscar Best Foreign Film category? From the official website of the Academy Awards, the following are four of the five contenders:

Country: **Mexico**

Entry: **"Amores Perros"**

Synopsis: A peek at modern urban Mexico as chronicled in the lives of a model, a businessman, a contract killer, and two brothers connected with the world of professional dog-fighting.

This is the fifth nomination for Mexico, the first time happening as far back as 1960 with the film "Macario." Apparently, afterwards, Mexican films became a favorite of the Oscars.

Country: **Belgium**

Entry: **"Everybody Famous"**

Synopsis: Desperation and the roads that helpless people take when engulfed by it is the theme of this Belgian film which Filipino-Chinese might find easy to relate to, since its protagonist eventually resorts to kidnapping to alleviate his and his daughter's plight.

Belgium scores a nomination once every decade, beginning with "Paix sur Les Champs" in 1970, followed by "The Music Teacher" in 1988. But in the '90s, Belgium performed better, getting two of its films nominated: "Daen" in 1992 and "Farinelli: Il Castrato" in 1994.

Country: **Czech Republic**

Entry: **"Divided We Fall"**

Synopsis: During the last years of the Second World War, Josef and Marie are a childless couple who meet a young Jewish concentration camp escapee, David, and welcome him to their home, thus putting themselves in danger with the Nazis.

Czech films are obvious favorites in the Academy as they are not only nominated but also succeed in "bringing home the bald man," so to speak.

Orphan

The Czech republic was the big winner in 1996 with "Kolya," a film about an orphan and an old man. It is said that the justification for the choice of "Saranggola" over "Jose Rizal" was this Czech film. Well, now we know that having a kid in a movie does not make a nomination. The former Czechoslovakia received a total of six nominations, including two wins.

"The Elementary School" (1991)—Nominee, Foreign Language Film
"My Sweet Little Village" (1986)—Nominee
"The Firemen's Ball" (1968)—Nominee
"Closely Watched Trains" (1967)—Winner
"Loves of a Blonde" (1966)—Nominee
"The Shop on Main Street" (1965)—Winner

(To be concluded)

Feasting on Thai cuisine in Bangkok

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

I WAS recently faced with a pleasant problem. I had to go to Bangkok to buy ingredients for my fast food outlets. I had no one to go with so I searched among my friends for people I could sales-talk into coming. I found my "victims" among my badminton buddies.

Shopping

I talked about the shopping, the unbelievable prices and the delicious and inexpensive food this Asian paradise has to offer. Of the 12 who originally committed, only six of us took off. It was the first time in Bangkok for four of them. I was excited for the first timers.

Our Air France flight took off after six hours' delay. The in-flight food made up for the long wait. We got to our hotel at five in the morning, only five hours from the breakfast deadline of the hotel. It's a wonder how the words "free breakfast" can work as a wake-up call for even bone-tired travelers.

Dennis, Monet, Rene , Precy, Rossanna, Arlene and I had our first meal in a seafood restaurant right across from the Amari Watergate hotel where we were booked. We had stuffed squid, sauteed kangkong, fried fish, Thai fried rice and a nice curried crab. All the seafood was fresh.

The curried crab was superb. It was spicy and creamy from the red curry paste and the fresh coconut milk. Our plates didn't need washing when we got through with it.

After this, we all went to MBK, where we shopped up to late afternoon. There, you find eight floors full of almost anything, from clothes and jewelry, to toys and gadgets. The top floor is a huge food court of the many specialties Thailand has to offer.

Noodle restaurant

That evening, our host Nook took us to an old noodle restaurant that only serves authentic Phad Thai. The restaurant is a landmark in this Thai capital. You may watch the expert preparation of this speciality. These are Thai flat noodles, sauted with pickled radish, bean sprouts, hibi, egg, spring onions and some other spices. Delicious!

We had this with some Birley's orange softdrink. (Those from the '50s know what Birley is.) The place is called Thip Samai Noodle Shop. It is located at 313 Mahachai Rd., Samranrat, Pranakorn, tel. 221 6280.

After that, we had some sticky rice with fresh mango which we bought on the sidewalk. We tried to digest the meal by shopping at the Phadpong evening market. Here, a shirt that originally costs 500 baht can be bargained down to 120. You'll understand why when you see your belly button sticking out after trying it on in the hotel.

The following day, we had lunch at a restaurant that served Northern Thai cuisine—also very good! I learned that the safest way to ask about a good restaurant is to talk to a guest relations officer at the hotel.

Weekend market

From here, we all went to Chatuchak Weekend market, just to look around. This is the Divisoria of Bangkok. Here, you will find almost anything under the sun, including some excellent finds.

Some expensive furniture being sold in Manila can be found here at a fraction of the cost. This place is also a must. Open only on weekends.

Our last dinner, we had in a restaurant called BanKhun Mae. We had all sorts of yummy Thai dishes. The one that stood out was a crispy fried *dalag* topped with crunchy lemon grass shreds. Splendid! This was at Siam Square Soi 8, Prathunam.

We all had a grand time during our four-day visit. The conclusion of the group was, Bangkok is the new shopping and eating paradise. It is a great alternative to Hong Kong, plus the people are nicer. Travel packages are so inexpensive these days.

Happy eating!

Photography. . .

(From page E2)

Together with Epson, provider of topnotch digital photo solutions, Agenda presents its collection of select pictures at Epson Square at SM Megamall. Eliciting wonderment once again are the stars who've graced the magazine's cover, like Gretchen Barretto, Dayanara Torres, Sharon Cuneta, Aga Muhlach, Cesar Montano and Regine Velasquez.

Equally captivating are the sensuous photograph of Robin Padilla, clad in white and sniffing a red apple with eyes closed; the series of shots featuring the fiery Cherie Gil in swordsplay; the moody black-and-white representation of Pen Medina, the '50s glamour portrait of Vicky Morales, and the Anne Curtis "twins."

Artistry

We, however, miss some memorable pieces like Bembol Roco's depiction of a lama and Raymond Bagatsing as Wolverine in an Agenda issue that celebrated the artistry of Filipino actors.

Understandably, since Agenda's editorial board chose only 20 pictures because of the limited space in Epson's showroom. "Those are the ones that we feel best represent the collaboration of photography and technology," board member Jojo Isorena tells us.

He explains that, although Agenda makes full use of computers and printers, the creative process of producing the magazine's visuals is not unlike the traditional method.

Editor in Chief Andrew Paredes adds that his team deliberates on an issue's theme and then they meet with the photographers. After the series of pictorials, the computer artists take over to complete the procedure.

Noted photographer Pancho Escaler, who hasn't worked with Agenda but was present during the exhibit's opening a few weeks ago, admits that computers have made picture-taking a lot easier, especially for those who have darkroom experience.

Electronics

"It's good and it's also bad," he points out, sighing that the fine art of photography has become a branch of electronics. Epson's Randolf Kanapi assures us, though, that computers only offer an alternative to and likewise supplement traditional photography.

So, even if technology has perfected photography but Penelope and company have no innate charm and zero magnetic presence, the result still won't be picture-perfect. The message they communicate to the beholder, after all, is the one thing that makes you look at the photograph over and over again.

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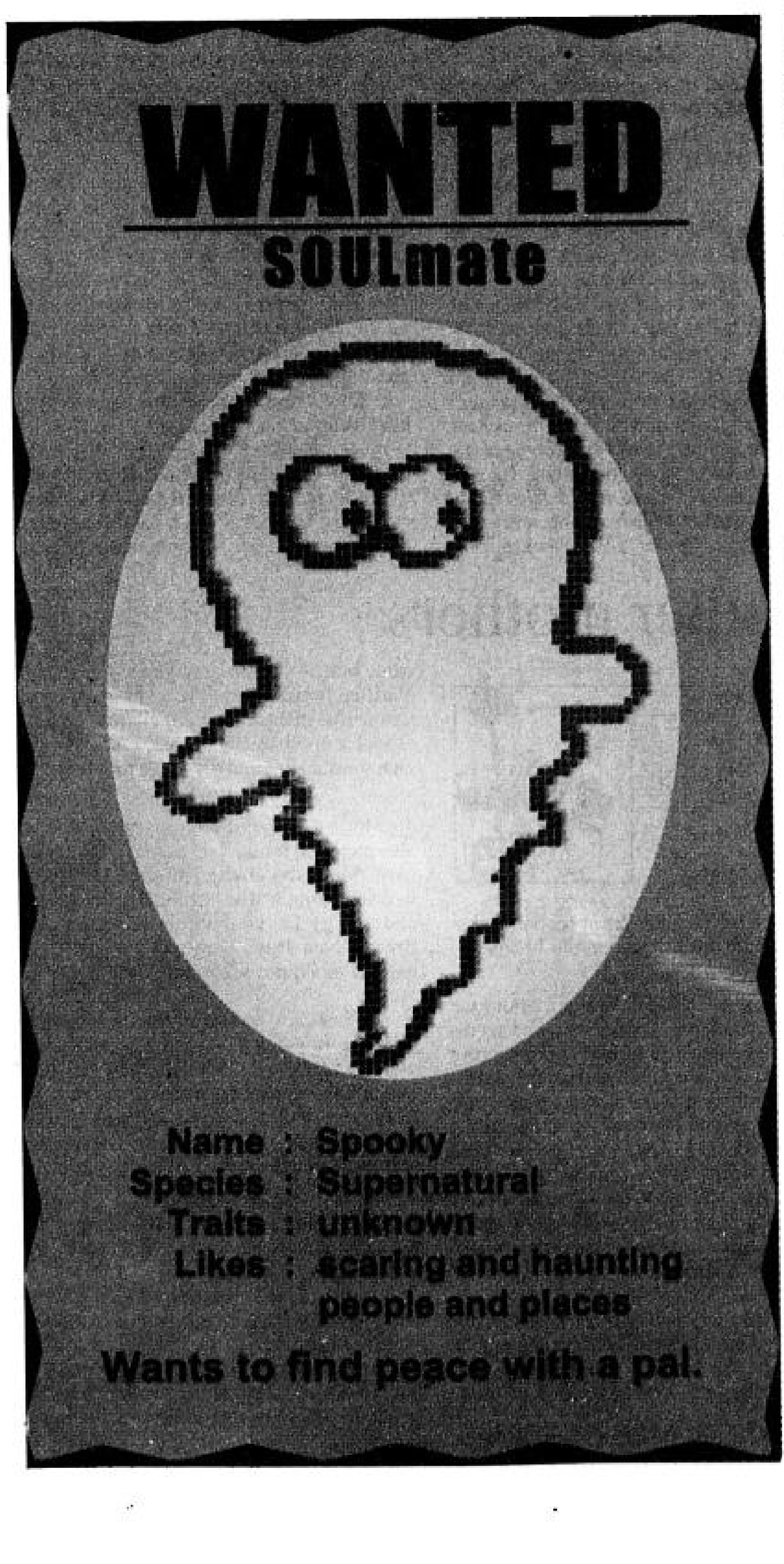
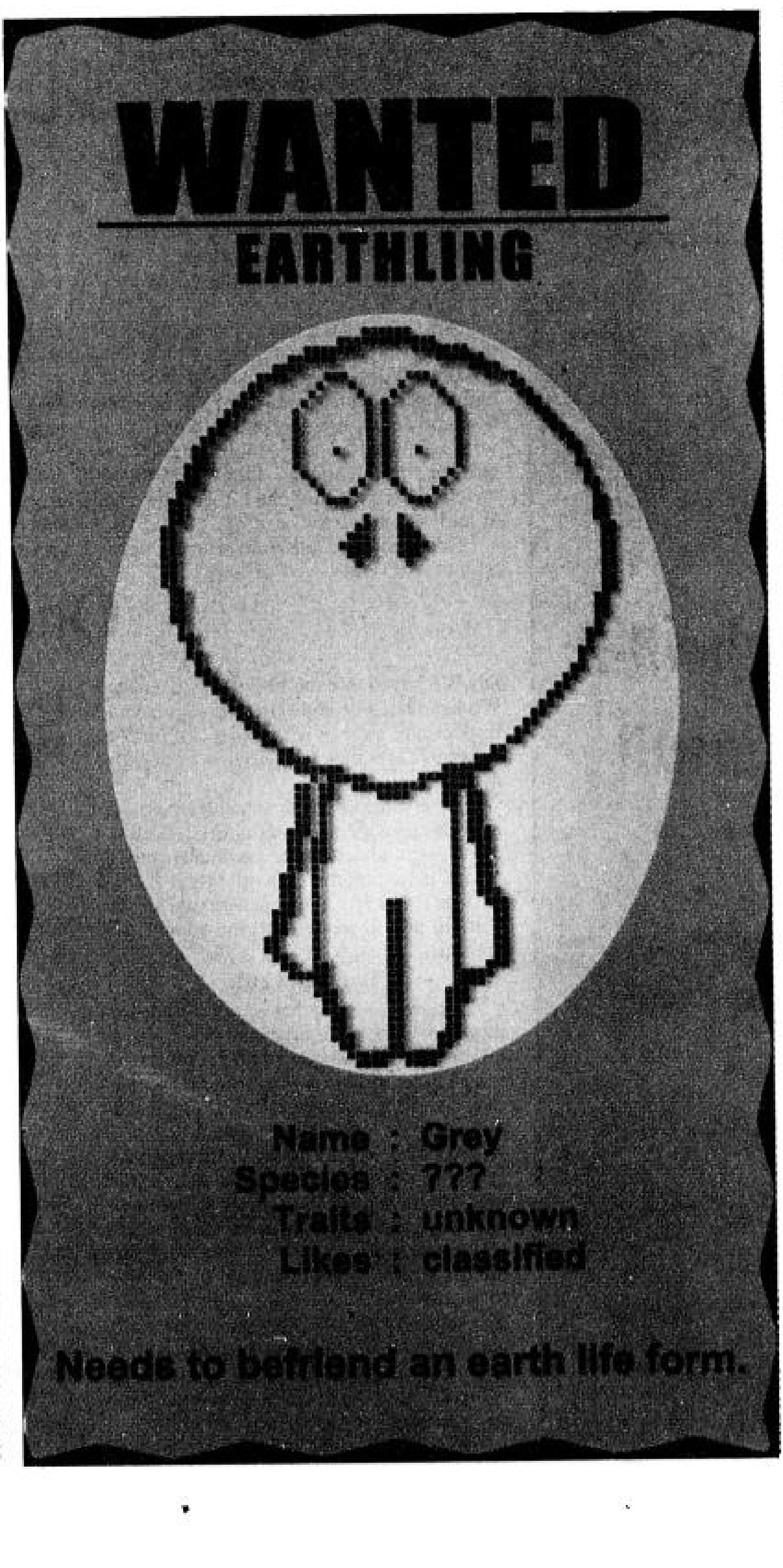


WANTED
SOULmate
Name : Spooky
Species : Supernatural
Traits : unknown
Likes : scaring and haunting people and places
Wants to find peace with a pal.

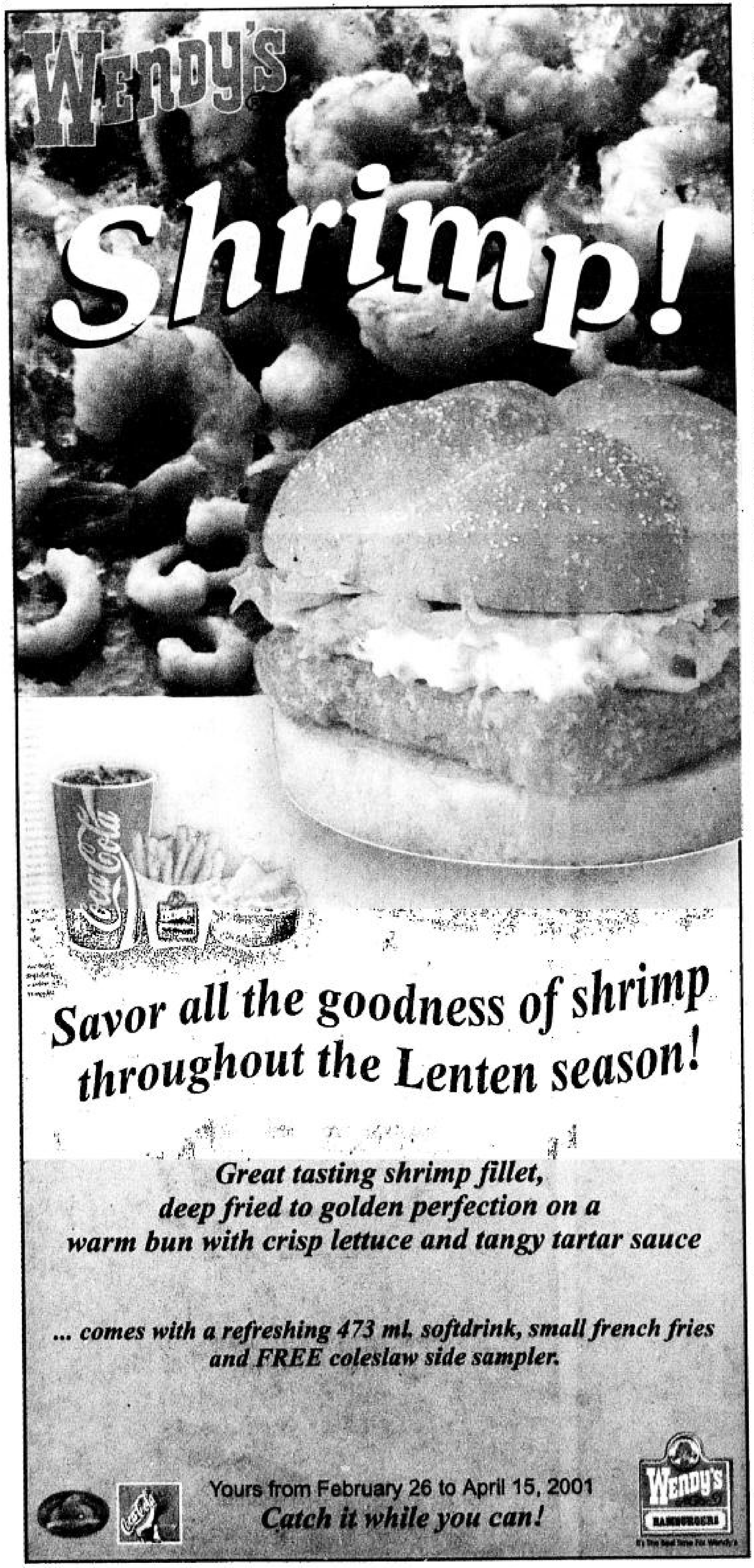


WANTED
EARTHLING
Name : Grey
Species : ???
Traits : unknown
Likes : classified
Needs to befriend an earth life form.

WANTED
COMPANION
Name : Shelly
Species : Turtle
Traits : shy
Likes : warm pools of water,eating
Looks for someone to help it come out of its shell.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MARCH 24 - 30

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrill's	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eazy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:30 GMA's BEST *Red Dawn* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Marital Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	6:30 Journey of Allen Strange 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *The Chamber* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 SAG Awards Countdown 11:00 SAG Awards Pre-Show 2:00 David Letterman
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sulfada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Dead Bang* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 60 Minutes 8:00 Oscar Best Picture on E! *Patton* 12:00 CBS Evening News
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Matira ang Matibay* 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp.	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	Live Coverage of the Oscar's Countdown, Pre-Show and Post-Show
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 That '70s Show 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Bubble Gum Crisis 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Saklolo Abogado 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Grapevine 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals *John Wayne* 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Good Times* 10:00 Wild On: *Beach '99* 11:00 David Letterman
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Kalapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp. 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 8:00 Survivor 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Alan Ladd* 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Freddie Prinze* 10:00 Wild On: *Fortaleza* 11:00 David Letterman
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Bubble Gum Crisis 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama *Khong Khung* 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Teen Choice Award* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Tyrone Power* 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Carmen Electra* 10:00 Wild On: *Tinseltown* 11:00 David Letterman
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Jullie 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm In the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Citiline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Cary Grant* 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Liberace* 10:00 Wild On: *Bali* 11:00 David Letterman



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Oscars focus on artists in adversity

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Tormented artists will be well represented at this year's Academy Awards, and we're not talking about the nominees who'll go home empty-handed that night.

Turmoil

The four acting categories are stacked with performers playing real-life creative types whose lives had more than a fair share of mental and emotional turmoil.

Three are in the best-actor category.

There's Ed Harris as the boozing, manic-depressive painter Jackson Pollock in "Pollock." Javier Bardem plays Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas, repressed because of his homosexuality and "counter-revolutionary" writings, who wasted away from AIDS after fleeing his homeland.

And Geoffrey Rush, who already has an Oscar for his take on the very real, very troubled pianist David Helfgott in "Shine," is nominated again for "Quills," a disturbing portrait of the Marquis de Sade, confined to an asylum and battling artistic tyranny because of his "deviant" writing.

Marcia Gay Harden has a supporting-actress nomination as fellow painter Lee Krasner in "Pollock," who suffered through a love-hate marriage to the abstract artist.

Strange hybrid

Then there's Willem Dafoe, a supporting-actor nominee for "Shadow of the Vampire." His role is a strange hybrid: Dafoe technically is playing Max Schreck, the obscure actor who starred in the silent-film classic "Nosferatu."

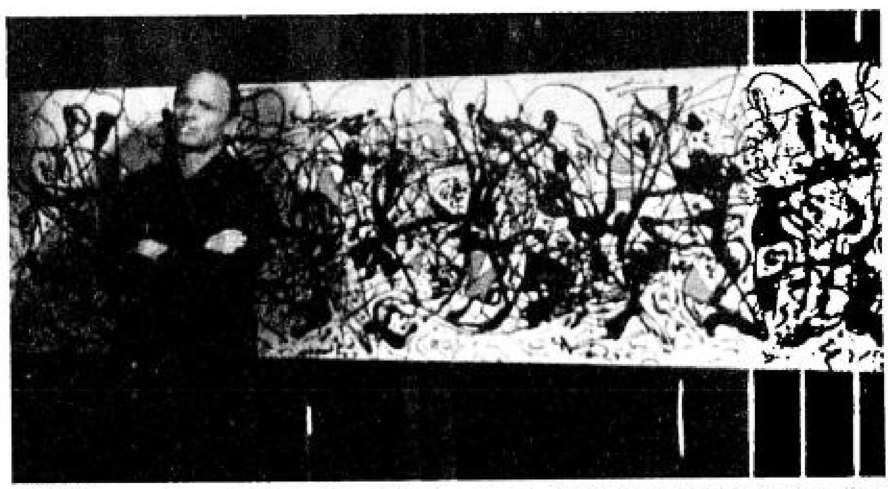
But the darkly whimsical film has fictionalized Schreck as that most tortured of souls, a real vampire hired to lend authenticity to the horror flick.

Different Oscar themes crop up from year to year. Two years ago, the best-picture field had three World War II dramas and two Elizabethan period pieces. In 1982, it was performers in cross-dressing or transsexual roles, with acting nominees including Dustin Hoffman for "Tootsie," Julie Andrews for "Victor/Victoria" and John Lithgow for "The World According to Garp."

This year, tragic artists are in vogue, purely by coincidence, nominees say.

"No one held a meeting and said, 'I think tortured artists are going to be big this year,'" Rush said.

Actors often are drawn toward extreme figures distressed by inner demons, people on the edge such as despondent writers or painters.



OSCAR nominee Ed Harris portrays artist Jackson Pollock in the film "Pollock."

Attempt

"For me, it was much more about his attempt than about him being a self-destructive person," Harris said of Pollock, who died in a drunken driving accident in 1956. "This guy tried hard for 42 years. He was really a lost soul and didn't know what to do with himself. He was pretty much up for grabs, trying to find something that gave his life meaning. And he found art."

Harris grew fascinated with Pollock after reading biographies on the painter in the mid-1980s and spent years trying to get the movie made. He wound up directing the film himself, capturing Pollock and Krasner's volcanic relationship with brutal frankness.

"Whether they're real-life people or not, it is the struggle that's interesting, like the road less traveled," Harden said. "For Ed, he had been with this project so long, and he fell in love with this guy Jackson Pollock and was drawn to his torment and struggle."

Krasner was not the artistic genius her husband was, but she shared many of the gloomy traits that often trouble creative minds, Harden said.

Rejection

"She was disputatious," Harden said. "She was somewhat arrogant. I don't think she was ever a warm and fuzzy person. She seemed to look for relationships that had ample amounts of rejection. She might have been a bit lighter on her heels had she been with someone more romantic."

In "Shadow of the Vampire," Dafoe's bloodsucker winds up becoming the ultimate of petulant actors, threatening the director, promising to "eat the script girl" and preying on dispensable members of the cast and crew.

The vampire also spends his down time on the set lamenting the pitfalls of immortality, remembering his glory days and moping about being centuries past his prime.

That's something Schreck himself might have related to. "Nosferatu" was the high point of his movie career. After that, he did theater in Germany and landed bit film roles, dying in relative obscurity in 1936. It was well after Schreck's death that "Nosferatu" came to be considered a horror masterpiece. *AP*

Our other mothers

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

DO WE have more mothers than we realize? We have been brought up to recognize and respect one mother who has given birth to our physical bodies and raised us from babyhood.

In our stage of physical helplessness, she provides us with our material needs until we can care for ourselves and eventually care for others, including our own offspring.

Due to her efforts and generosity, we feel grateful and appreciate all the support she gives us.

Bountiful gifts

But we actually have more than one mother who helps nourish and care for us in our existence in this world. We are referring to generous Mother Earth, who provides us with natural resources and bountiful gifts that make our life easier on this planet.

Our food, water, shelter and air are made available in wondrous ways that make us feel her nurturing spirit. But some of her children lack appreciation for what they have been given and rape the mother who nourishes them. Pollution and destruction of our environment is a crime against a mother who has so beautifully packaged her gifts and distributed them to the residents of the world. In turn, they spit poisons on her, disembowel her mountains, cut down her lush rainforests and murder thousands of species of life.

How much sadness can we give a mother? How much torture can we inflict on Mother Earth without feeling pain in our hearts?

Kindness

There is still another mother whom we do not treat with the kindness that she needs. A mother is one who nourishes her offspring and this mother has nourished so many children and babies, but no one recognizes her generosity and nurturing ways. I am speaking about Mother Cow, who has provided milk to billions of citizens in the world. Without her gift, how many of us would attain the good health we enjoy? Without her nourishment and assistance, how many babies would survive the critical years of helplessness?

Indeed, during ancient times, Mother Cow was treated with respect because she amply provided for the needs of many families. She produced the most complete food of all—milk.

And from this wondrous product also came butter, yoghurt and ghee—made from clarified butter, it was the oil used for frying wonderful dishes. And yogurt was not only eaten for nourishment but also taken as medicine for diarrhea and digestive problems.

Fuel

Mother Cow did not only give food but also provided for the fuel needs of the people. Cow dung was never considered as waste; in dried form, it was burned to provide heat and energy for cooking stoves and campfires. It even drove away mosquitoes, a truly natural mosquito repellant without side effects.

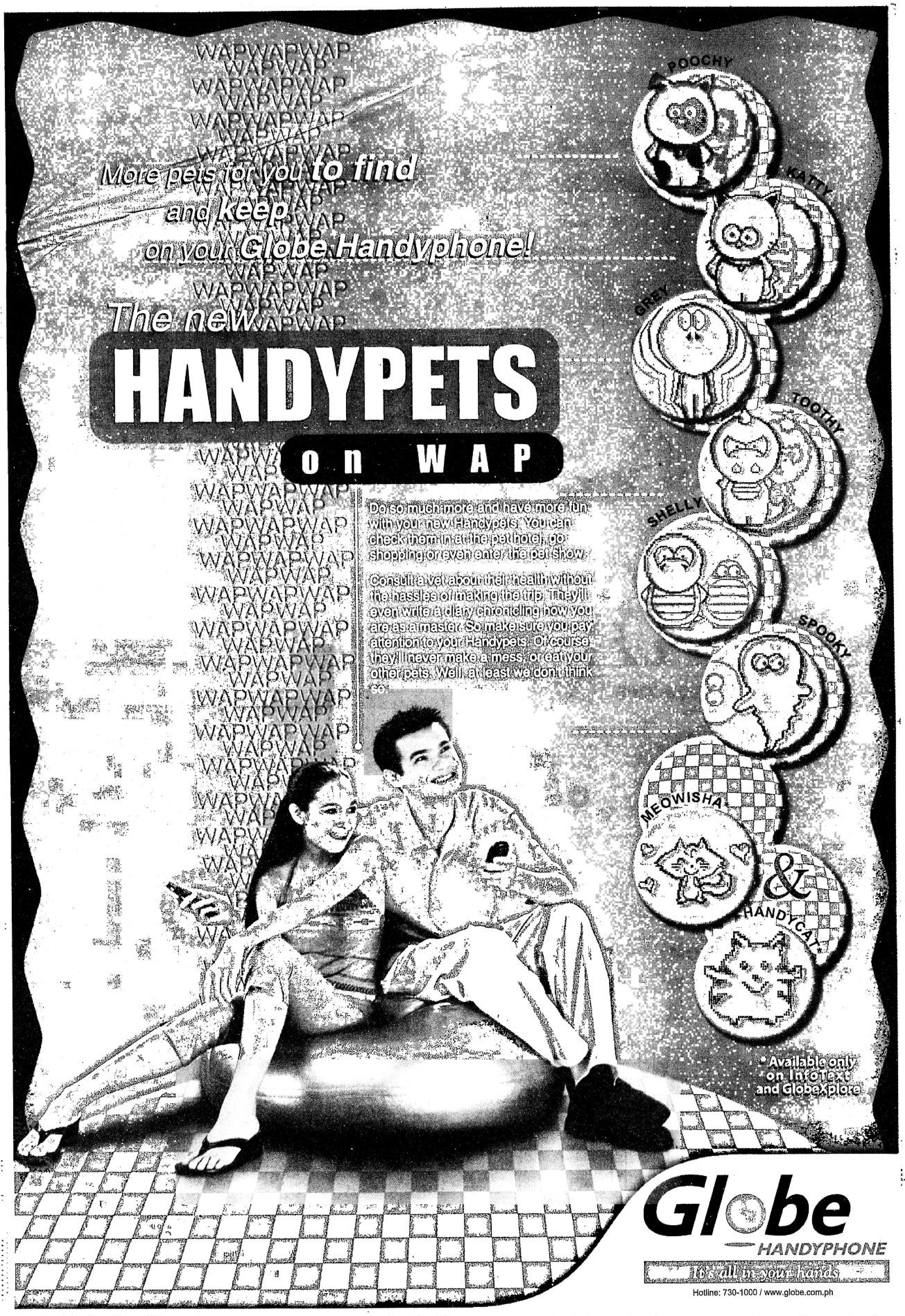
Mother Cow was also a family's "*botica*" because her urine was an antiseptic for wounds, rashes, etc. Modern man may have laughed when he first heard about this, but laboratory studies have proven that cow urine is an antiseptic and is not the offensive waste that most people think it is.

Provider

Truly, the cow is the generous provider not only of food but also of fuel and energy and healing substances.

In spite of the generosity of Mother Cow, she is dishonored and imprisoned in modern factory farms.

Terrified and in great agony, she is hauled off to the slaughterhouse, where she is butchered. How can we treat a mother in this way?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To get your Handypet via the on-line convenience of ***WAP***

1

If you're a first time WAP-user, type in the keyword of your phone type* and send to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2

Menu
Services
Home
Exit

If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the Services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

3

Connecting to service
Cancel

You will then see a prompt advising that you are being connected to the service.

4

GLOBE TELECOM
GLOBE TELECOM
New Sites

Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on New Sites or Games, then to Wireless Games. Click "No" to register, if you are a first time user, then select Wireless Pets and wap away.

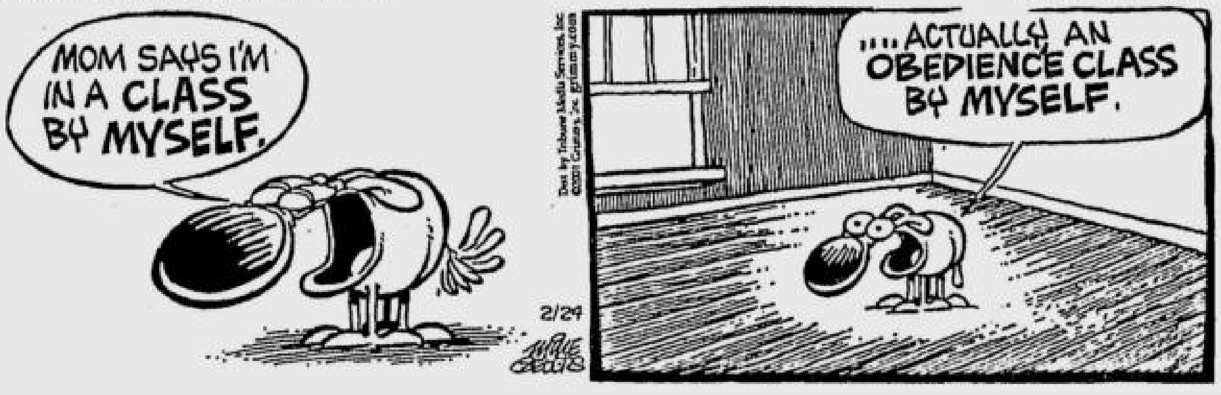
The keywords are: For Nokia 7110 and 6210-nokiawap; For EricssonR320s-ericssonwap; For Siemens M35-siemenswap; For Motorola T2288-motorolawap

wirelessgames.com

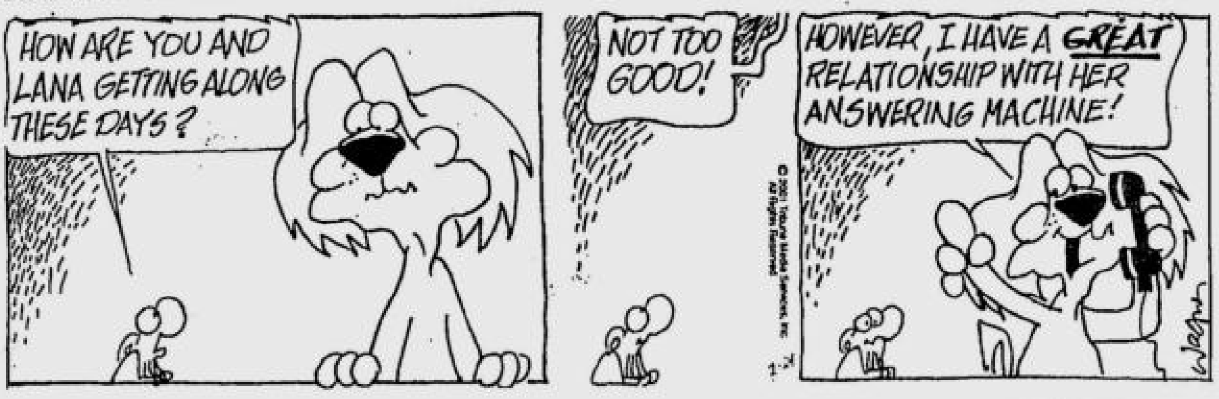
wsa wireless services asia

For more information on your Handypet, visit:
www.wirelessgames.com/pets or www.globeinteractive.com.ph

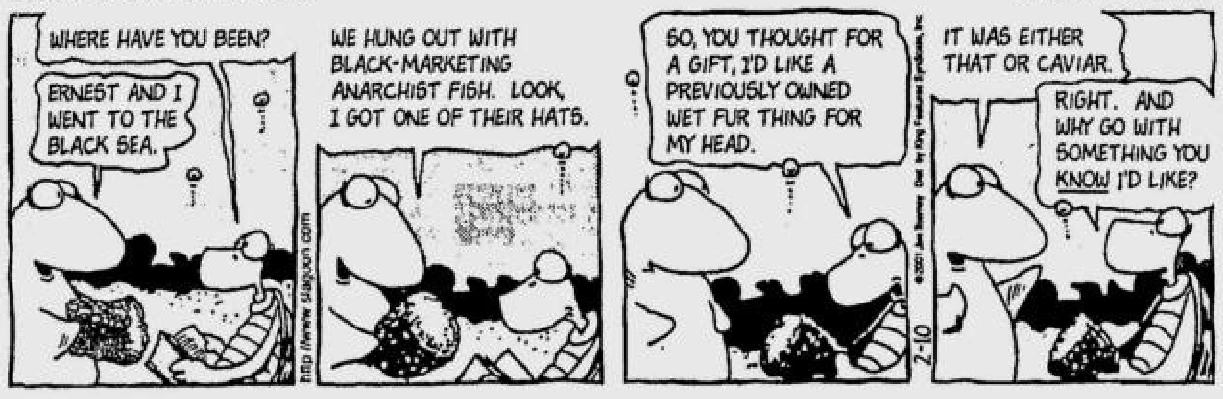
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


MOM SAYS I'M IN A CLASS BY MYSELF.
....ACTUALLY AN OBEDIENCE CLASS BY MYSELF.
2/24

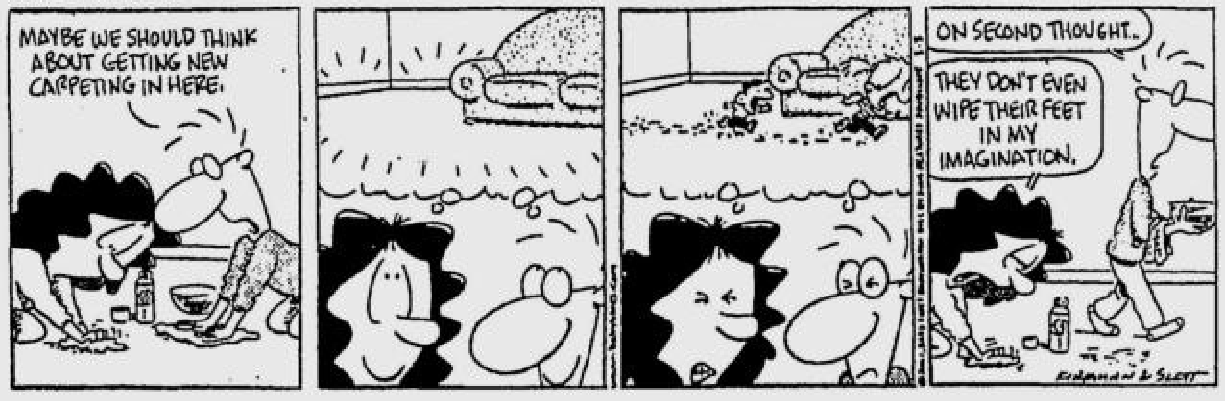
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


HOW ARE YOU AND LANA GETTING ALONG THESE DAYS?
NOT TOO GOOD!
HOWEVER, I HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH HER ANSWERING MACHINE!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
ERNEST AND I WENT TO THE BLACK SEA.
WE HUNG OUT WITH BLACK-MARKETING ANARCHIST FISH. LOOK, I GOT ONE OF THEIR HATS.
SO, YOU THOUGHT FOR A GIFT, I'D LIKE A PREVIOUSLY OWNED WET FUR THING FOR MY HEAD.
IT WAS EITHER THAT OR CAVIAR.
RIGHT. AND WHY GO WITH SOMETHING YOU KNOW I'D LIKE?
http://www.slagoon.com
2-10

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTING NEW CARPETING IN HERE.
ON SECOND THOUGHT..
THEY DON'T EVEN WIPE THEIR FEET IN MY IMAGINATION.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve McQueen, Kelly LeBrock, Bob Mackie, David Suzuki, Lara Flynn Boyle

Happy Birthday: Your powerful way of presenting yourself and your ideas should lead to success in any causes you decide to pursue. You can make a difference, and the changes will turn your life around. Isolate your goals and don't stop until you reach your destination. High energy, coupled with your charm, should elicit all the help you need. Your numbers: 8, 12, 23, 31, 38, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sort out your priorities. A job change may be in order. Confusion will set in if you've fallen in love with someone who is off-limits. The longer you sit and wait, the more difficult it will be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Join groups. You will meet individuals who will listen to your ideas and contribute valuable input. Be discreet about your intentions and your private affairs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get involved in energetic activities. You need an outlet that will give you the competition necessary to boost your ego. Love connections can be made through the company you keep.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put some spark back into your relationship. Remember, it takes two to tango, so use whatever it takes to entice your mate. Don't be afraid to be a little aggressive for a change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't just dream about doing things. Take action and set the wheels in motion. The time is right to explore new avenues, make new friends and book that exotic trip you've been thinking about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your hard work will pay off if you make your presentation today. Don't underestimate your talent if someone decides to criticize you. You'll earn support as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone you live with won't be too happy if you are too busy for him or her. You may have to spread yourself a little thin, but it will be worth it in the long run. Try not to disappoint your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can't be everything for everyone. Follow your heart and do what is necessary to satisfy your creative needs. It's time for you to spend time with people you relate to better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't spend too much on entertainment or gambling. You'll have to curb your habits if you don't want to upset those who love you. Travel will be fun but costly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make desperately needed changes to your home to lift your spirits and raise its value. Property investments will prove quite lucrative. Don't hesitate to make verbal agreements.

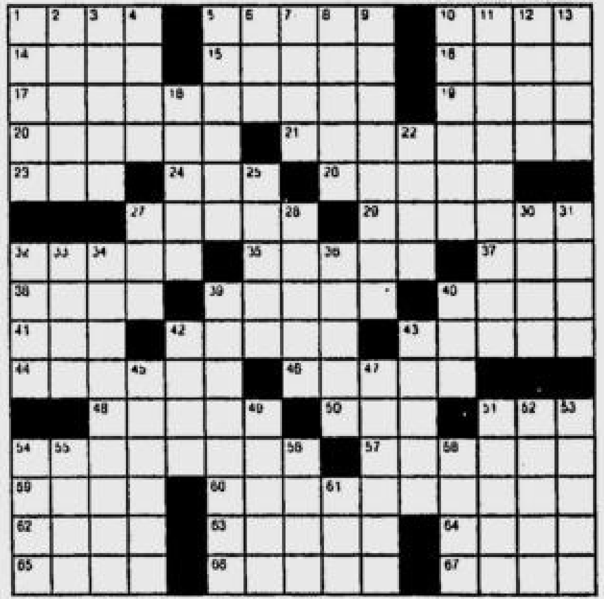
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Romantic connections will be made if you take part in events geared toward helping those in need. Your humanitarian outlook will attract those who interest you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't believe everything you hear. Stick to what you know to be fact and concentrate on getting ahead. This is not the time to be sidetracked.

Birthday Baby: You are on the go, hard to keep up with, and certainly full of all sorts of interesting ideas. You will take the road less traveled, which will lead to wonderful destinations and amazing adventures along the way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

2/8/01

ACROSS

1 Not take the cake
5 Glacial pinnacle
10 Scourge
14 Mimicked
15 Functional
16 Served perfectly
17 Royal EEG?
19 Wedding token
20 Grade-B westerns
21 Audience member
23 Greek letter
24 "__ the fields we go..."
26 "The Purple People __"
27 Small specks
29 Upset an incumbent
32 Blood element
35 "Butterfield 8" author
37 Stevedores' org.
38 Begged
39 Wharves
40 Hungarian river
41 French friend
42 Van Gogh city
43 __ de Leon
44 Two-way switch
46 Latin speaker
48 City near Avignon
50 Something to pick?
51 Trajectory
54 Bad way to go down?
57 Sound system
59 Deceased
60 Like a well-entrenched ruler?
62 Perry's penner
63 Join in
64 Flexibility
65 Marketed
66 Impertinent
67 Kernel

DOWN

1 Toil
2 Ms. Winfrey
3 Look after
4 Singer Brickell
5 Day's end
6 "Star Trek" extras?
7 Costa __
8 Having wings
9 Chiron and others
10 Julian or Binnie
11 Period of bitter dominance?
12 Oahu goose
13 Brink
18 Husband-to-be
22 Sicilian peak
25 Lubricate again
27 Defamatory remarks
28 Nearly perpendicular
30 Actor Guinness
31 Biblical weed
32 Altercation
33 Sailor's saint
34 Coup d'etat?
36 Fiery crime
39 Incubator occupants
40 Ages and ages and ages
42 __ mater
43 Singer Page
45 Covered with gold
47 Stephen King novel
49 Cassia family plant
51 Golfer Palmer
52 "Still Me" writer
53 Encrypted
54 Middle of the month
55 Roman tyrant
56 Some NCOs
58 Omelet necessity
61 Notes of scales

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	A	R	S	■	E	D	N	A	■	S	T	O	A	T
A	L	E	C	■	B	E	A	M	■	C	O	U	P	E
L	I	M	A	■	A	L	D	A	■	O	A	T	E	N
L	E	A	P	I	N	L	I	Z	A	R	D	S	■	■
A	N	N	E	S	■	■	R	E	G	I	S	T	R	Y
■	■	■	■	M	O	B	■	■	E	N	T	R	E	E
T	O	W	S	■	T	A	R	T	■	G	O	O	F	S
A	R	A	N	■	B	L	O	O	M	■	O	K	I	E
B	R	I	A	R	■	M	E	M	O	■	L	E	T	S
L	I	N	K	U	P	■	■	B	O	O	■	■	■	■
E	N	S	E	N	A	D	A	■	■	R	A	C	E	S
■	■	C	R	O	C	O	D	I	L	E	R	O	C	K
P	R	O	O	F	■	W	A	C	O	■	O	L	L	A
O	U	T	O	F	■	E	G	O	S	■	M	O	A	T
T	E	S	T	S	■	L	E	N	T	■	A	N	T	E

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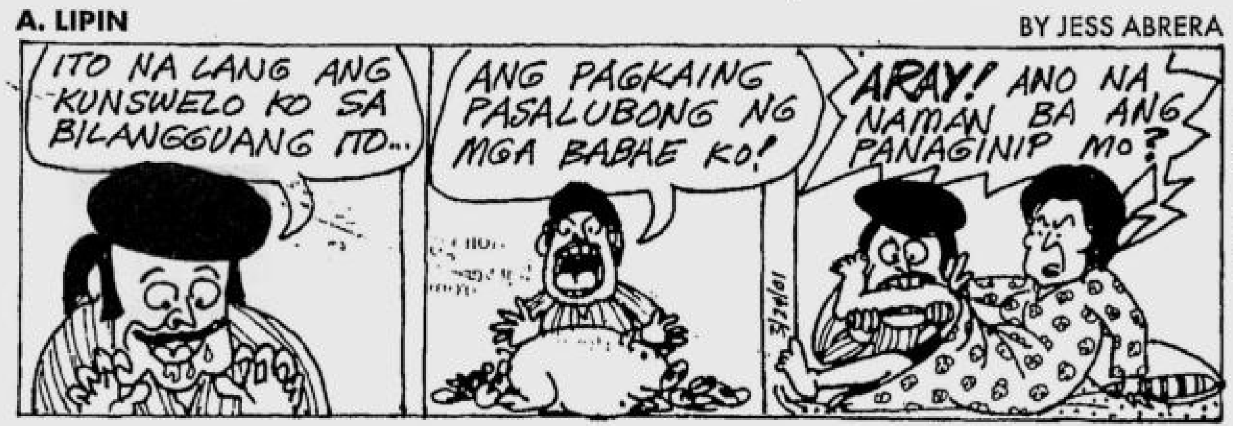
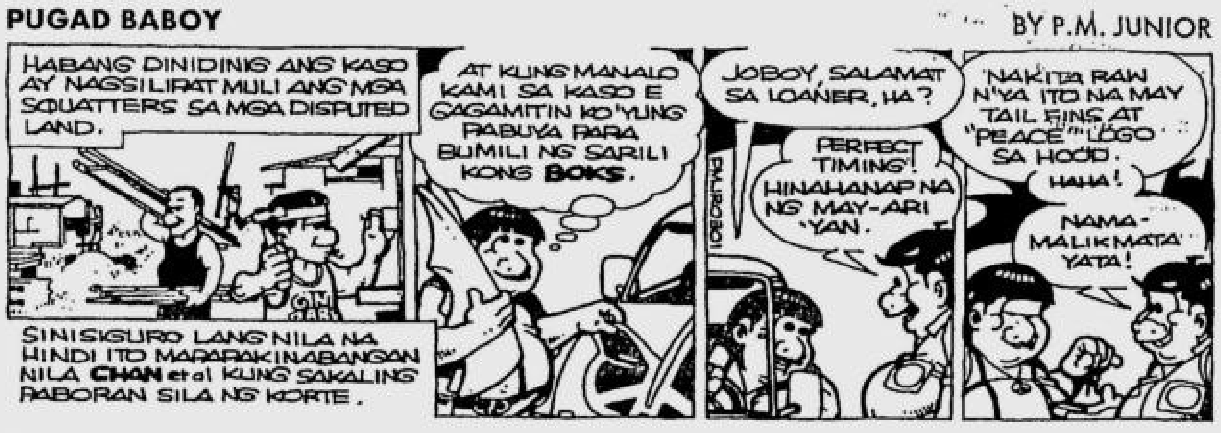
2/8/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

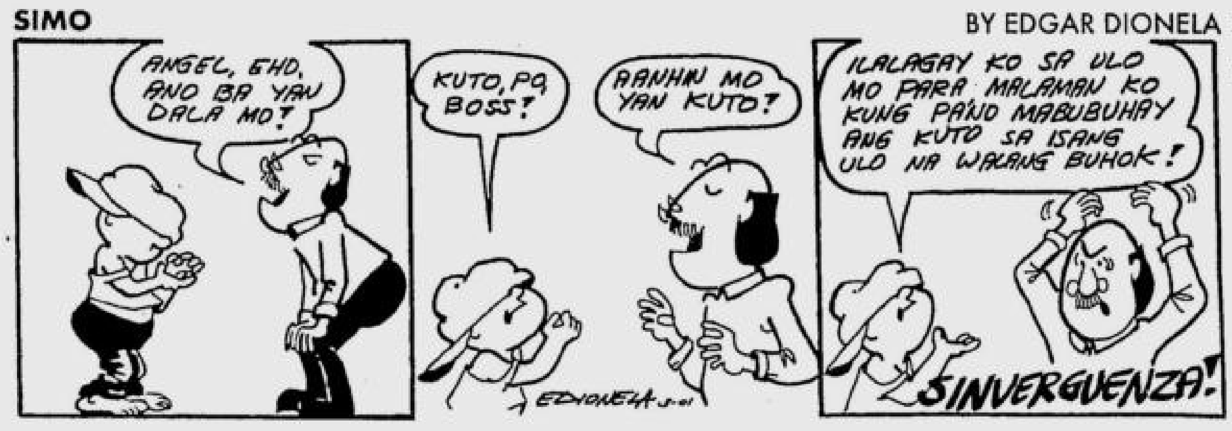
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ITO NA LANG ANG KUNSWELO KO SA BILANGGUANG ITO...
ANG PAGKAING PASALUBONG NG MGA BABAE KO!
ARAY! ANO NA NAMAN BA ANG PANAGINIP MO?

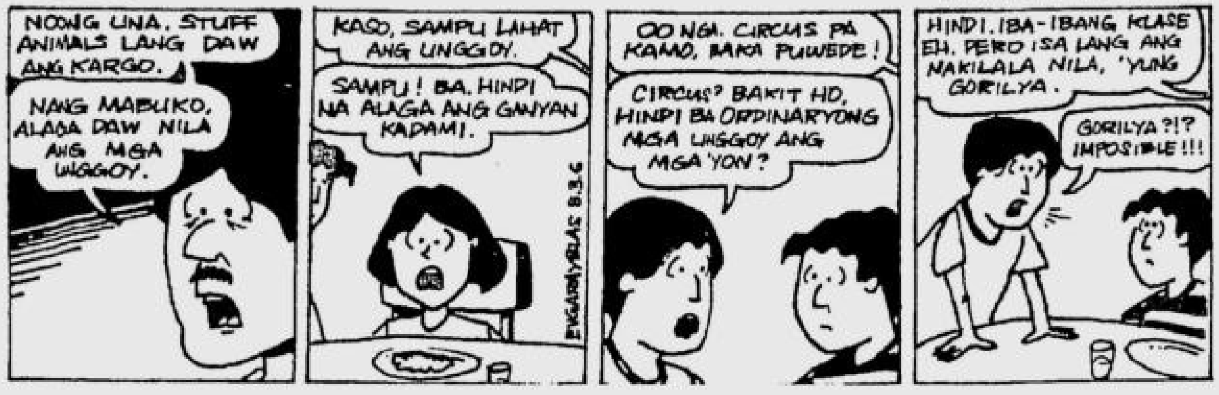
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


HABANG DINIDINIG ANG KASO AY NAGSILIPAT MULI ANG MGA SQUATTERS SA MGA DISPUTED LAND.
SINISIGURO LANG NILA NA HINDI ITO MAPAPAKINABANGAN NILA CHAN et al KUNG SAKALING PABORAN SILA NG KORTE.
AT KUNG MANALO KAMI SA KASO E GAGAMITIN KO 'YUNG PABUYA PARA BUMILI NG SARILI KONG BOKS.
JOBOY, SALAMAT SA LOANER, HA?
PERFECT TIMING! HINAHANAP NA NG MAY-ARI 'YAN.
NAKITA RAW N'YA ITO NA MAY TAIL FINS AT "PEACE" LOGO SA HOOD.
HAHA!
NAMA-MALIKMATA YATA!

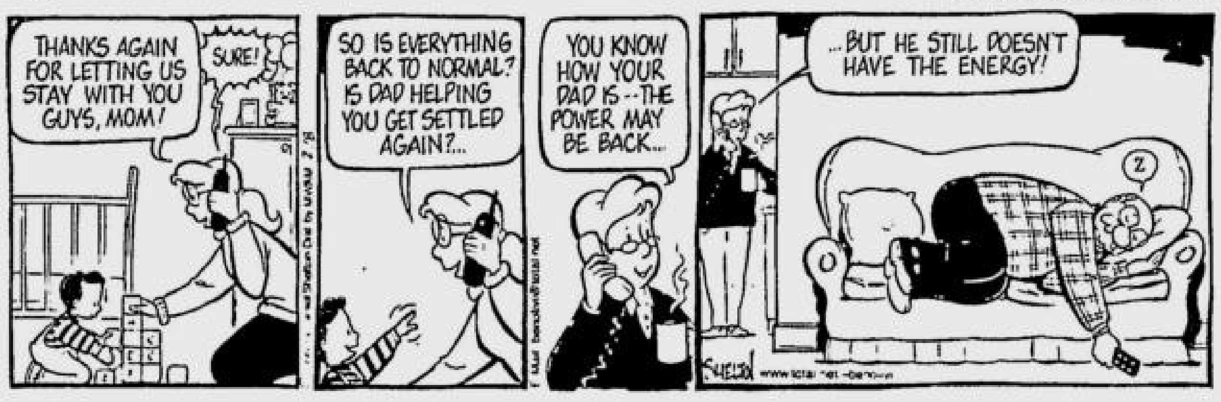
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, EHD, ANO BA YAN DALA MO?
KUTO, PO, BOSS!
AANHIN MO YAN KUTO?
ILALAGAY KO SA ULO MO PARA MALAMAN KO KUNG PA'NO MABUBUHAY ANG KUTO SA ISANG ULO NA WALANG BUHOK!
SINVERGUENZA!
EDIONELA

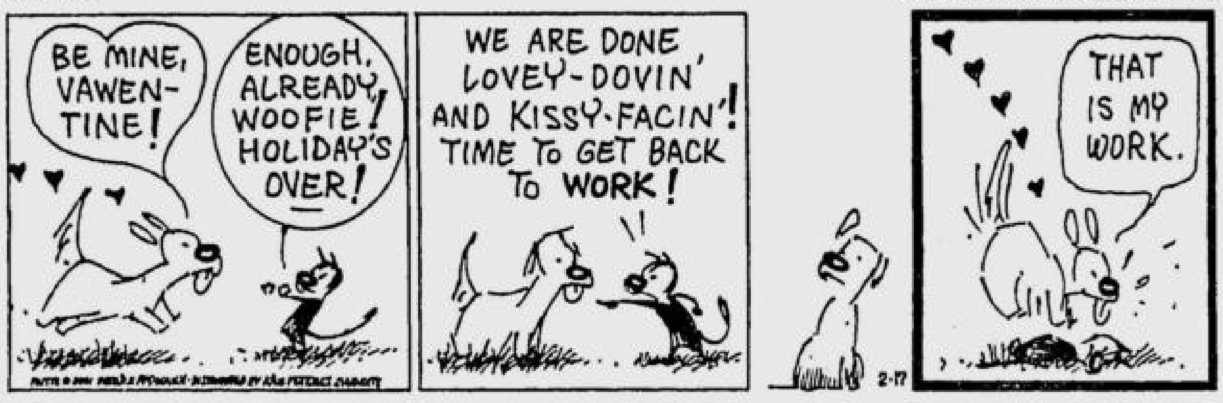
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NOONG UNA, STUFF ANIMALS LANG DAW ANG KARGO.
NANG MABUKO, ALAGA DAW NILA ANG MGA UNGGOY.
KASO, SAMPU LAHAT ANG UNGGOY.
SAMPU! BA, HINDI NA ALAGA ANG GANYAN KADAMI.
OO NGA. CIRCUS PA KAMO, BAKA PUWEDE!
CIRCUS? BAKIT HO, HINDI BA ORDINARYONG MGA UNGGOY ANG MGA 'YON?
HINDI. IBA-IBANG KLASE EH. PERO ISA LANG ANG NAKILALA NILA, 'YUNG GORILYA.
GORILYA?!? IMPOSIBLE!!!

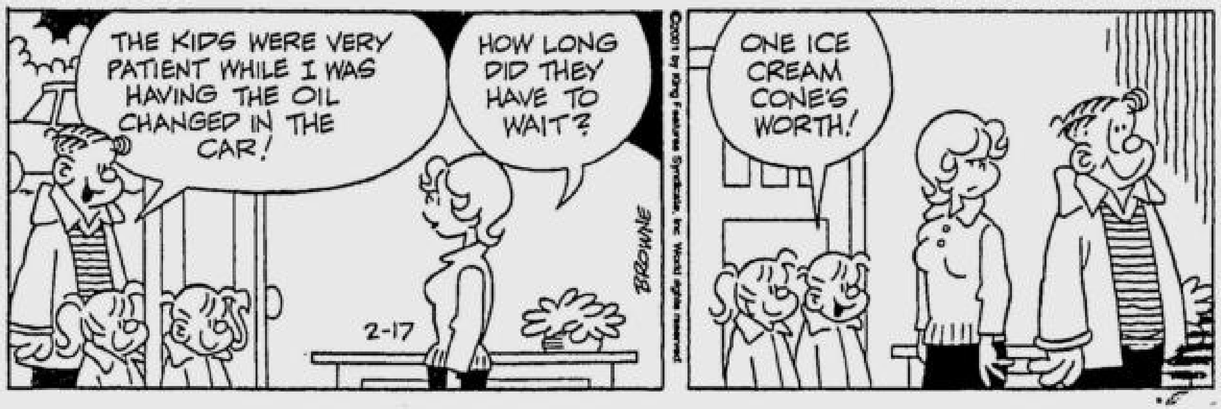
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING US STAY WITH YOU GUYS, MOM!
SURE!
SO IS EVERYTHING BACK TO NORMAL? IS DAD HELPING YOU GET SETTLED AGAIN?...
YOU KNOW HOW YOUR DAD IS--THE POWER MAY BE BACK...
...BUT HE STILL DOESN'T HAVE THE ENERGY!
Z
SHELTON

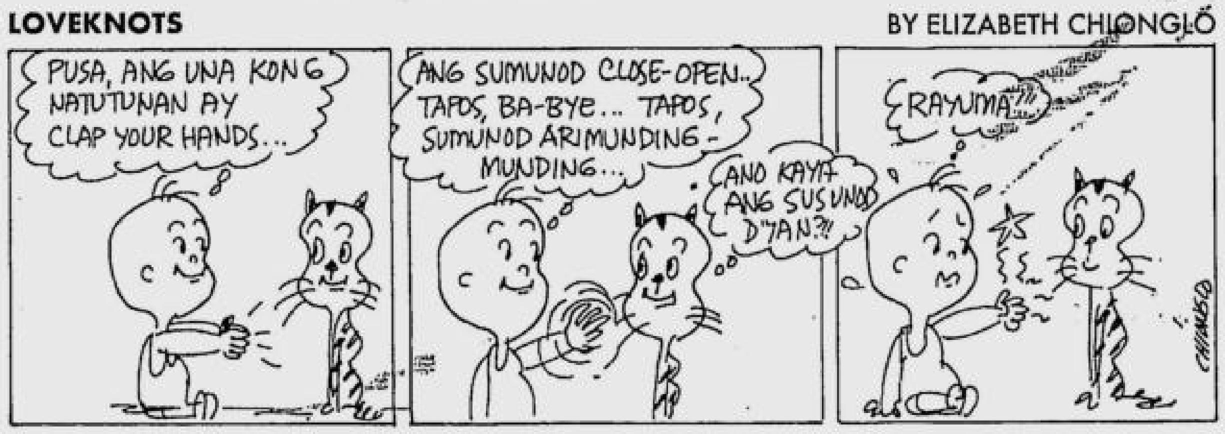
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BE MINE, VAWEN-TINE!
ENOUGH, ALREADY, WOOFIE! HOLIDAY'S OVER!
WE ARE DONE LOVEY-DOVIN' AND KISSY-FACIN'! TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK!
THAT IS MY WORK.
2-17

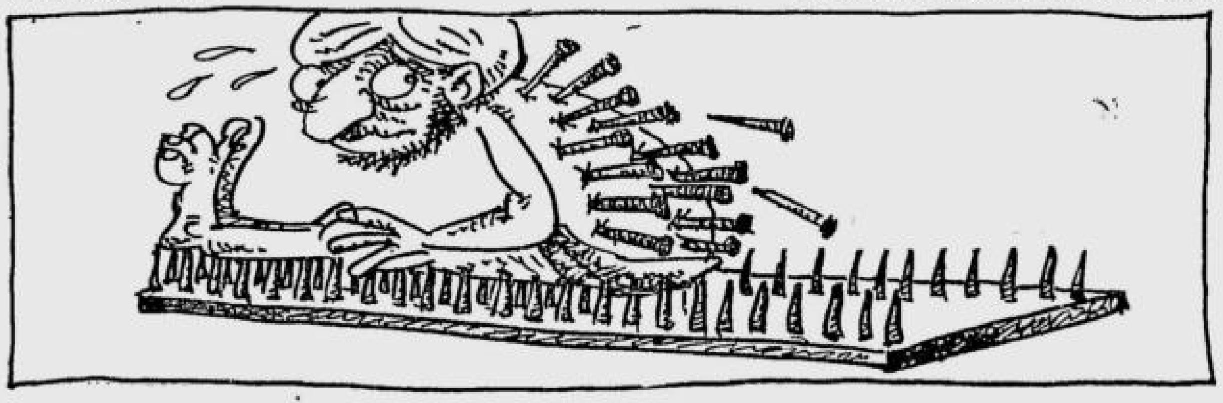
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THE KIDS WERE VERY PATIENT WHILE I WAS HAVING THE OIL CHANGED IN THE CAR!
HOW LONG DID THEY HAVE TO WAIT?
ONE ICE CREAM CONE'S WORTH!
2-17
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, ANG UNA KONG NATUTUNAN AY CLAP YOUR HANDS...
ANG SUMUNOD CLOSE-OPEN.. TAPOS, BA-BYE... TAPOS, SUMUNOD ARIMUNDING-MUNDING...
ANO KAYA ANG SUSUNOD D'YAN?!!
RAYUMA?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Pops promotes album in mall tour

POPS Fernandez will bring "Shindig" to the malls in line with the promotions of her latest album under Viva Records, "Shindig Live!" The album is a double-CD compilation of several cuts from her concerts at the Ultra and the Cavite Coliseum.

She will be seen today at 5 p.m. at the SM Southmall in Alabang, March 25 at 5 p.m. at SM North Edsa, March 30 at 4 p.m. at Festival Supermall in Alabang and March 31, at SM Bacoor, Cavite.

"Shindig Live" consists of several memorable cuts like her version of "When You Say Nothing at All" with son Robin Nievera on guitar. It also has several danceable hits and her own version of the controversial "Aray!"

Wolfgang at the Republic

Wolfgang returns to the Republic of Malate on March 24 and 31 at 9 p.m. for an unplugged concert. Catch "Wolfgang Acoustica" before the band goes on its concert tour in the US.

For details, call Headline Concepts at 551-7251 to 54 or the Republic of Malate at 303-3529.

'Stariray'

Jefz Cafe Sing-Along Bar, located below the New Solanie Hotel at 1811 Leon Guinto st. opens its season of shows with "Stariray" to be staged on March 27.

The show stars Norman, who sings *ala* Pilita Corrales; Teri, who does impressions of Nora Aunor; Kirai, a budding comedian, and Willy Jones, who can imitate the moves and voice of Shirley Bassey.

"Stariray" is written and directed by Chi de Jesus with Rani Santos of Whiplash as choreographer. For details, call 524-8641.

Liane Loren at Kampo

Liane Loren performs with the Wise Guys on March 29 at 9 p.m. at Kampo 2088.

After a successful concert with Rico J. Puno at Rembrandt Hotel's Downtown, Lianne did a series of shows in Tokyo, Singapore, Guam and Los Angeles.

Her comeback show is produced by her mom, Rita Quebic, who owns Iritz Production.

Cesar plays mad killer

Cesar Montano plays the notorious mad killer of the 70s in "Alyas Waway, Leonardo de los Reyes" on March 30 at 6 p.m. onViva Cinema.

The movie also stars Cristina Gonzalez, Jun Aristorenas, Bembol Roco, Joel Torre and Tommy Abuel.

Asciano Mixx

Asciano Mixx brings together veteran musicians FernandoMontejo, Al Cobarubia, Tony Casil, Topher Cailao, Boyet Puro, Teddy Tipon, Aldos Ramento and Marlon Sediño.

Montejo has released a self-titled album under Viva Records and is the man behind such songs as "Naisip Mo Ba" and "Ikaw na Sana". Marlon got noticed last year for his Tagalog version of "You've Got a Friend," a cut from his album, "Startin' All Over Again."

The group will perform on March 25 and April 1 at Fat Tuesday at the Alabang Town Center.

Fotr details, call 825-0565 and look for Kelly.

MONTAGE

'Never Been Kissed'

Drew Barrymore shines in the comedy "Never Been Kissed" on Star Movies today at 7 p.m. The movie also stars David Arquette and Michael Vartan.

Barrymore plays a bright 25-year-old copy editor who yearns to be a reporter. She is skilled at her profession but totally clueless in her personal life. She used to be a brainy nerd in high school, a geek to the core, and she has never had a serious relationship. That is about to change.

The Dawn at Hard Rock

Hard Rock Cafe has lined up several shows designed to appeal to music lovers.

Today, Jett Pangan, L.B. Leonor, Caloy Balcells, Francis Reyes, and Atushi Matsura, collectively known as The Dawn, will promote their latest album, "Prodigal Son."

On regular nights, the restaurant features Silk on Mondays, League of Cayuk's on Tuesdays, Freestyle on Wednesdays, Freeverse on Thursdays, Next Level back to back with Parliament Syndicate on Fridays, B.I.G. on Saturdays and 9MM (formerly Arnel Pineda and The Glass) on Sundays.

For details, call 893-4661.

(*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

FERNANDEZ. Sings at SM Southmall today.

BABY COMPANY
Summer baby Sale
50% off

Nursery Bags
50% off

Winnie the Pooh Accessories
- car shade
- baby rattles
- bath sponge

30% off

4-pc Printed linen set
- pillow
- 2 bolster pillows
- comforter

20% off

Assorted Looney Tunes Toys
50% off

Pooh Crib Bedding Set 28" x 52"
- comforter
- bumper guard
- fitted sheet

20% off

Decorative Bear Collection
- table clock
- photoframe
- lamp

20% off

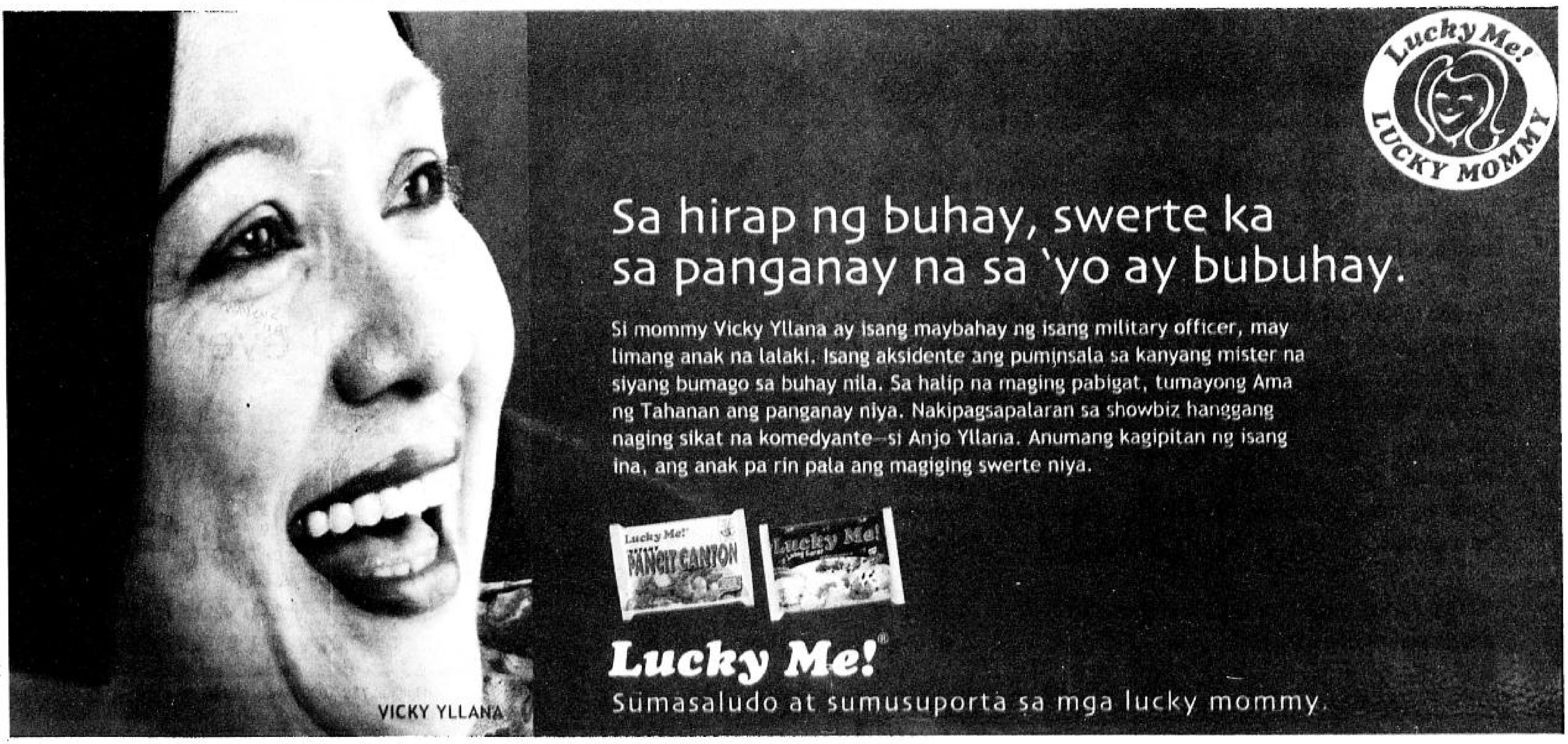
We've got it all for you !

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Cosco Metal Crib
20% off

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0202 / 0204, Series of 2000

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU



Lucky Me! LUCKY MOMMY

Sa hirap ng buhay, swerte ka
sa panganay na sa 'yo ay bubuhay.

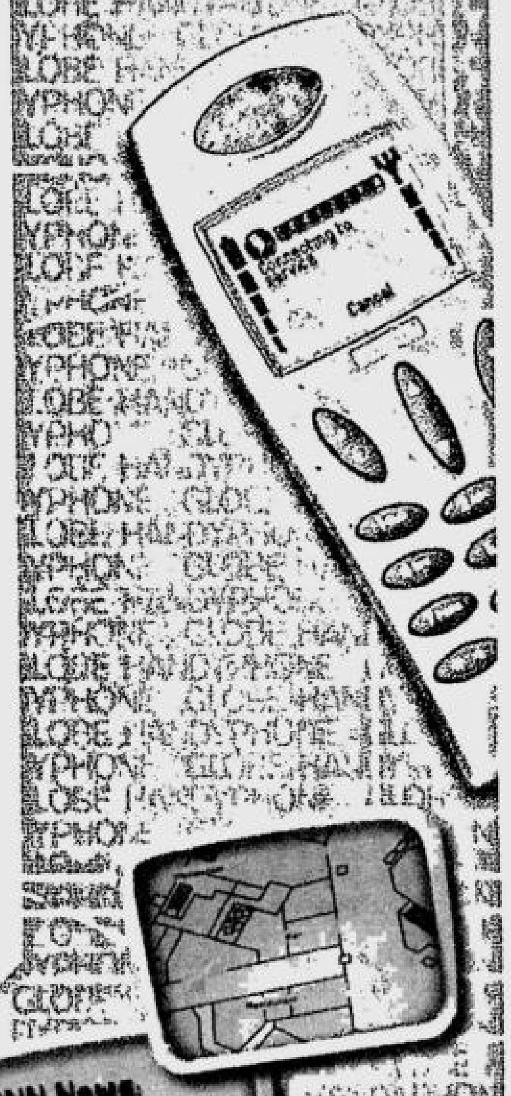
Si mommy Vicky Yllana ay isang maybahay ng isang military officer, may limang anak na lalaki. Isang aksidente ang puminsala sa kanyang mister na siyang bumago sa buhay nila. Sa halip na maging pabigat, tumayong Ama ng Tahanan ang panganay niya. Nakipagsapalaran sa showbiz hanggang naging sikat na komedyante—si Anjo Yllana. Anumang kagipitan ng isang ina, ang anak pa rin pala ang magiging swerte niya.

Lucky Me!®
Sumasaludo at sumusuporta sa mga lucky mommy.

VICKY YLLANA

HE OVERSEES OPERATIONS WITH HIS GLOBE HANDYPHONE

Gerard Garcia
Executive Vice President,
Dutch Boy Philippines
International Roamer
WAP and FindMe User



CNN News:
Lakers beat
Knicks in OT!
Lead series
Traffic updates:
5:30 PM
EDSA(Ortigas)
to Mkti Heavy

Gerard Garcia runs his office based on his refined sales acumen. And trusts his Globe Handyphone to see him through. "Hands down, Globe offers better service and excellent features. In fact, I'll be upgrading to GlobeXplore very soon—I can already imagine what it would be like!" he reasons.

Since his job requires him to be in transit and on mobile around the country, he utilizes his Globe Handyphone to oversee the general operations of his staff and major dealers nationwide. "A colleague of mine even dared me that his phone was better. But when we went around, especially in the south, I had better coverage than him," he attests. "Now, the signal is great! Even from my home in Antipolo, I get full bars!" he quips.

Internationally, Globe has also proven to be helpful to Gerard, "Last year, I was in the US for three weeks. And I had clear access and connection while there. That was really something!" Gerard claims.

"I used to have a Communicator. It was as if the office was with me all the time. But now I'm using a WAP-capable handset because I want to go online—retrieve information about news, traffic updates or even FindMe," Gerard tells us. Lately though, he finds himself making calls more often, "It's more convenient and cost-wise, there's not much difference. We're even thinking of cutting down on the number of landlines in the office since everybody is already Globe connected," he discloses.

"Let's put it this way—I know if I need to use it, I could do so wherever and whenever," he declares.

I've got a Globe Handyphone.
I've got all I'll ever need.

Globe
HANDYPHONE
It's all in your hands
Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph

Saturday SPECIAL

EDDIE Gutierrez, Carmi Martin, Gina Alajar and Albert Martinez play important roles in Channel 7's "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin."

Battle of the new network soaps

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

MONDAY, March 26 is the day of reckoning for the country's two leading TV networks. That's when two new soaps, ABS-CBN's "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" and GMA's "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" go up against each other on the same time slot – 6:30 p.m. Both shows will air Monday to Friday, hopefully for the next two years.

Edge

At first glance, ABS-CBN seems to have the edge in casting and production values. In "Walang Hanggan," which the network prefers to call a *teleserye*, Claudine plays two women (compared to her last soap where she played three contrasting roles), one in the early 1900s and the other in the present, and has not one, but six leading men – Carlos Agassi, Troy Montero, Bernard Palanca, Victor Neri, John Lloyd Cruz and Luis Alandy.

She is supported by veteran stars Gloria Romero, Boots Anson-Roa, Robert Arevalo, Ronaldo Valdez, Chat Silayan, Tetchie Agbayani, Spanky Manikan and Jaime Fabregas, as well as younger talents Mylene Dizon, Carol Banawa, Shaina Magdayao, Angela Velez, Ena Garcia, Karla Estrada, Don Laurel, Justine Cuyugan, Jojit Lorenzo, Shamaine Centenera and Eugene Domingo.

"Ikaw Lang" offers Angelika de la Cruz and Sunshine Dizon as its lead characters, who are separated and forced to live a life of hardship, one as a maid in a luxurious mansion, the other as the adopted daughter of a *mama-san* in a brothel.

The supporting cast is made up of Cogie Domingo, Albert Martinez, Eddie Gutierrez, Gina Alajar, Carmi Martin, Alicia Alonzo, Janice Jurado, Ana Capri, Marjorie Barretto, Gabby Eigenmann, Mel Martinez, James Blanco and Sherwin Ordoñez. The series is directed by Wenn Deramas, who has worked with Claudine in her previous soaps, "Mula Sa Puso" and "Saan Ka Man Naroroon."

At the ABS-CBN presscon, it was Ronaldo Valdez who stole the show with his sardonic humor. When asked why he accepted the role, he said the money was good. At one point, newcomer Justine Cuyugan, who plays a homosexual in the series, was asked if he was afraid people would conclude he was gay in real life. Ronaldo interrupted Justine, saying, "*Sa akin, hindi problema yan, dahil bakla naman ako talaga.*"

Everyone had a good laugh because although the actor has played *bading* characters in the movies, he is the exact opposite offscreen. Now we know where Janno Gibbs got his wry sense of humor.

Undergraduate degree

It was nice to see Tetchie making a comeback on TV. We were glad to hear that she recently finished an undergraduate degree, major in Psychology, from St. Joseph's and plans to go on to a graduate degree in the same field at the Ateneo. Later, she told us that she wouldn't mind opening a therapy clinic or writing an advice column *ala* Dr. Margarita Holmes.

After the group Q&A, we found ourselves at a table with Carol Banawa, who sings one version of the title song. The other version has Zsa Zsa Padilla doing the vocals.

Carol plays the close friend of Claudine in the 1912 segment and knows her deepest secrets.

She said the costumes she wore had a profound effect on her as she moved around the set and delivered her flowery Tagalog lines. She really felt like a Filipina at the turn of the century.

We asked her if she believed in immortal love, which is the theme of the *teleserye*. She replied that she was a romantic and believed in eternal love. This despite the fact that she had recently broken up with PLDT's Billy, Carlo Muñoz. It was an eight-month relationship. She thought they were sweethearts but Carlo never did affirm that she was special to him.

This was a painful experience for Carol but we consoled her with the observation that she could always use it to improve her skills as an actress and singer.

At the GMA presscon, we talked to Eddie Gutierrez and Ana Capri. Eddie recalled the good, old days at Sampaguita Picures when he was one of the most sought-after leading men. His team-up with Susan Roces was a successful one, resulting in more than 25 films. As a contract star, he was getting only P50 a week, then he graduated to P 500 for every supporting role, finally earning the "princely" sum of P 2,500 for his lead roles!

Comeback

In 1986, he was in the States when he got a call from Mother Lily who wanted him to make a comeback in the movies. She was very concerned if Eddie still retained his matinee idol figure so she flew to the US to scrutinize him. The actor did everything to show Mother Lily that he was still fit and the Regal matriarch was quite impressed.

Then came the hard part: The two discussed the financial aspects of his comeback, which took from 12 midnight to the wee hours of the morning! When they finally agreed on his contract, Eddie came home and though, initially, he was nervous and made several mistakes during shooting, he eventually regained his composure, and he has been active in movies and TV since then.

Ana plays a *mama-san* in the soap, which capitalizes on her experience as a sexy star in the movies. However, she has had to restrain herself because the scenes she is shooting are for television, which has a family audience. She can't be as daring as she is in her movies, which involve nudity and bedroom scenes.

Co-director Soxy Topacio (Louie Ignacio is the main director) commented that he had to rein in Ana during one scene which called for her to embrace her male partner, because it would not pass the MTRCB.

Ana has always impressed us with her acting as well as her sensible answers to our

BATTLE/P.F2

CLAUDINE Barretto and Tetchie Agbayani in period costumes for Channel 2's "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

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Early winning moments at the Oscars

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY year, the Oscar awards for outstanding achievement in film commands a TV audience of more than 85 million in the United States alone. What has made it so popular and influential?

Long history

Its long history (the Academy began handing out awards in 1929) is one factor, but certainly not the only one. It has big star value, glitzy production numbers, suspense, emotion and triumphant acceptance speeches.

Through the Oscars' 71 years of existence, these are deemed as some of its most unforgettable and significant early winning moments:

1929: Special award to Warner Bros. for producing the "talkie," "The Jazz Singer," cited as "the pioneer outstanding talking picture which has revolutionized the movie industry."

Sensation

The film opened during the Academy's initial year; by the time it was given a special award, sound-on-film had already become a country-wide sensation, and silent films had quickly became passé.

Special award to Charlie Chaplin in "The Circus," for "versatility and genius in writing, acting, directing and producing."-

Best Comedy Direction award to Lewis Milestone for "Two Arabian Knights." For the first and only year, the Academy distinguished between comedy direction and dramatic direction in two separate categories.

1931-32. A tie occurred for the first time: The Best Actor award was shared by Wallace Beery (for his performance in "The Champ") and Fredric March ("Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde").

New screen formula

The Best Picture awardee, "Grand Hotel," created a new screen formula in which an all-star cast and unrelated characters were brought together in a common dramatic environment (like the hotel in this movie). The stellar cast included Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Joan Crawford, Wallace Beery and Lionel Barrymore.

"Grand Hotel" is also known as the film in which Garbo uttered the famous line, "I vant to be alone"—not once, but thrice!).

1934. It was little Shirley Temple's turn to get a special award for her impressive contributions to the movie industry—in 1934 alone, she starred in nine movies!

Little golden statuette

Before Irvin S. Cobb presented her with her little golden statuette, he gushed: "When Santa Claus brought you down Creation's chimney, he brought the loveliest Christmas present that has ever been given to the world."

The award was very well-deserved: At only six years of age, Shirley was already one of the famous females in the world.

Emotional Oscar memories of the awards' first decade:

Bette Davis: "I have always felt proud of my Oscars (1935, 1938) and my numerous nominations! The pride is due to the fact that I was voted to win by the members of my own profession. This is a great compliment for my work. I hope each winner of an Oscar is as proud as I am to receive mine!"

Advice

Helen Hayes: "My advice to you young actors winning Oscars: Enjoy! Don't wait years to find out what the award can give you in terms of comfort and confidence. As an actor grows older, no matter how long his memory, it is hard to hold on to that delicious feeling of his youth—of being the best. An Oscar sitting on the mantel is a good reminder. I treasure mine for that!"

Claudette Colbert: "What can one say about receiving the Academy Award except, 'I was so happy, excited—etc!' In my particular case, added to those emotions was utter astonishment! I was convinced we could not win because a comedy had never won.

Train

"In fact I was actually boarding a train for New York when I was whisked back to the Biltmore Hotel to accept the Oscar while they held the train. It was quite a scenario!"

Luise Rainier: "How do I feel about the Oscars? Often in life, big events and their importance are felt less at the time than later. It was a change of one's image felt by others but not oneself. It seemed harder to continue one's work quietly.

"I have often heard people say that winning the Oscar is a bad omen. I don't think it need be. Except, maybe, that the industry seemed to feel that having an Academy Award-winner on its hands was sufficient to overcome bad story material. However, to build anything good needs solid material, so it does not slip through your fingers like sand."

Competition

Katharine Hepburn: "Prizes are won as a result of competition. Any way you look at it, from birth to death, we are competing. But when it came to film awards, I decided early on to avoid all that. So I never went.

"But I had to be honest enough with myself to wonder, 'What is it, Kathy—are you afraid that you won't win?'

"One year when I wasn't in the running, they asked me to present the Thalberg Award, and I couldn't refuse, so I rushed on and rushed off. But, do you know what? They all stood up!

Affection

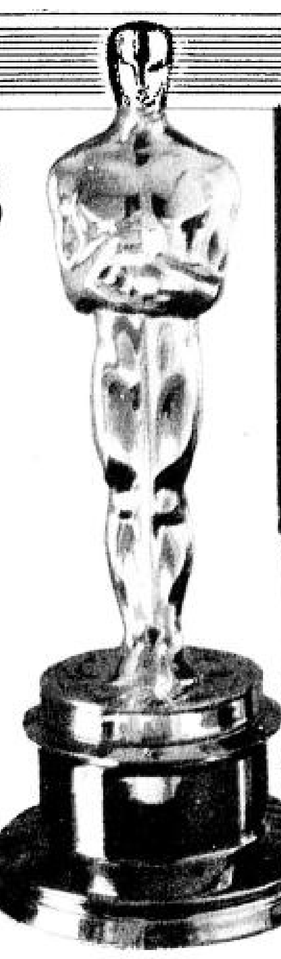
"They stood up for *me*. All those people whose votes through the years had given me the prize –several times. They stood up, they clapped, they gave me their respect and their affection.

"It was a revelation—the generous heart of the industry. The pat on the back from one's peers. That was when I realized that, however maddening, infuriating, embarrassing and artificial these occasions are, the truth of the matter is still pure.

"The Academy Awards are all in good faith, and they have maintained a purity, a simple truth: This year, by our vote, you are the best!"

LITTLE superstar Shirley Temple gets a special trophy and a big hug from producer Irvin S. Cobb.

AWARDEE Helen Hayes advised young actors to derive "comfort and confidence" from winning the trophy.



CHAPLIN. Honored with a special trophy for his "versatility and genius."

GRETA Garbo and John Barrymore in "Grand Hotel," 1931-1932's Best Picture.

Battle . . . (From page F1)

how she reacted to the brouhaha behind "Live Show," where she is one of the stars. This was the day before the movie was ordered pulled out by Malacañang.

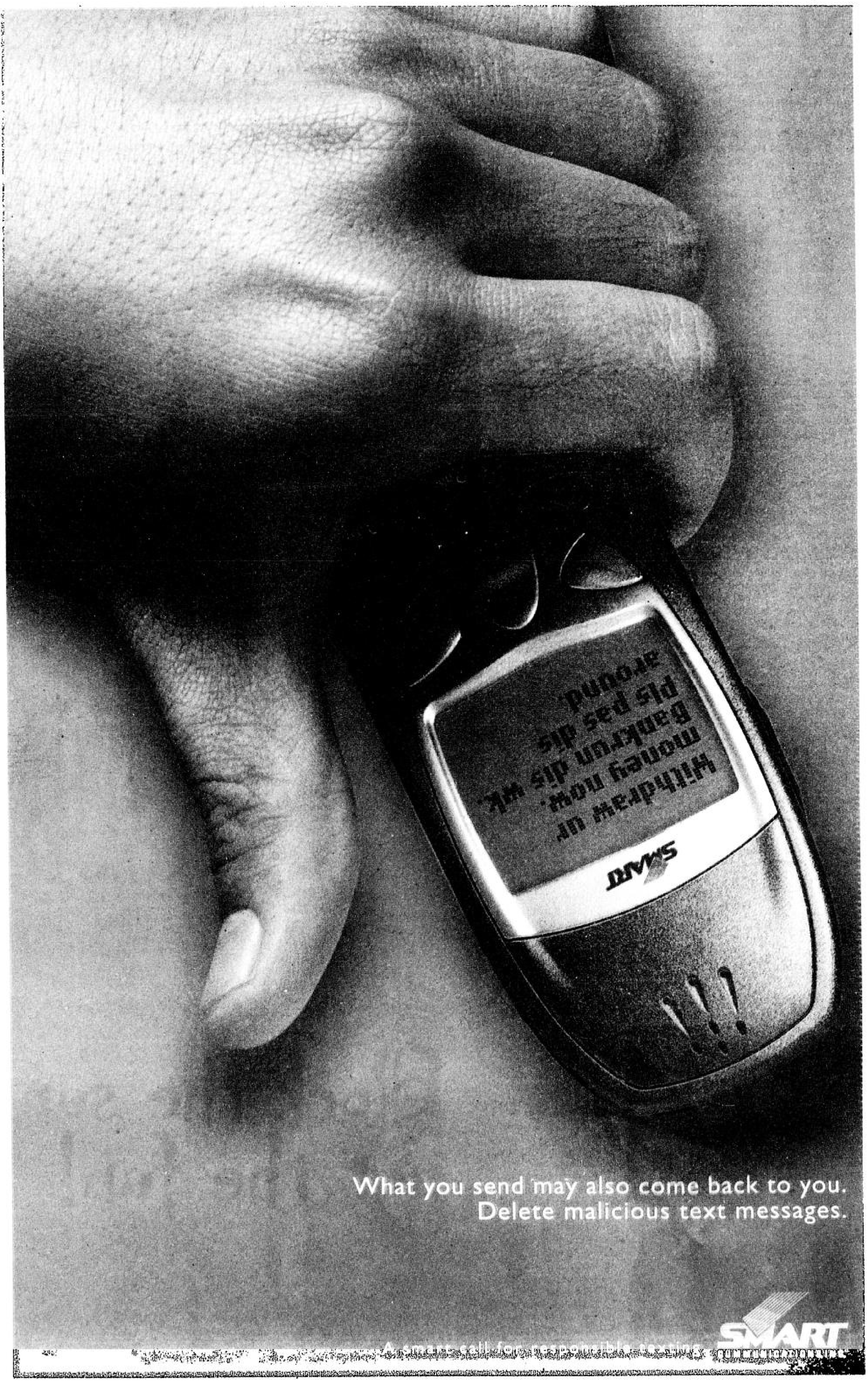
She was saddened by the reaction of the ultra-conservatives to the movie, which she described as a well-crafted movie and not your run-of-the-mill sexploitation flick. She was surprised why this group was making a big fuss over a small matter when the country faced graver problems that needed immediate attention.

Glossy

From the trailers that were shown to us, "Walang Hanggan" looked more glossy specially because it has a segment set in 1912 and that required period costumes and sets. The production has two production designers, Manny Morfe for the 1912 scenes and Ronnie Cruz for the modern period.

In a music video featuring singers Lani Misalucha and Side A's Joey Generoso, "Ikaw Lang" showed the contrast between the depressed area and the upper-class homes and had a lot of heartrending scenes of characters being abused, typical of tearjerkers

Earlier, we said that ABS-CBN seemed to have the edge. However, it is the viewing public that will pass final judgment. Will the viewers prefer to swoon over a romantic love story that transcends time or will they empathize with the sufferings of Angelika and Sunshine at the hands of their tormentors?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ALBUM REVIEW

Grooving with Barbie's Cradle and Rachel Alejandro

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

"Music from the Buffet Table"
Barbie's Cradle
Warner Music

SONGS are sweet, soothing and relaxing, even if the lyrics are melancholy. Vocalist, band leader and guitarist Barbie Almalbis sounds girlish, innocent and gentle in most of the cuts. But her simple pop tunes manage to keep you on the edge. Barbie has the sharp wit of Alanis Morrisette and the romantic wistfulness of Jessica Simpson. Each song is personal but thorough. Each feeling or situation in every song is recounted in detail. There is nothing pretentious about the album.

"Belinda Bye Bye," "It's Dark and I'm Lonely" and "Money for Food" give you the impression that Barbie is world-weary and lonely. But these songs are devoid of resentment or bitterness. They just leaves you with a sad but real feeling.

"How Long," "Shiny Red Balloon," and "The Dance" seems to be musings in a diary. They're honest, hopeful but disjointed.

"Tabing Ilog" makes a cool splash. As you listen to the song, you can actually imagine a clear river, blue skies and the happy, carefree days of youth.

A Hotdog classic, "Langit Na Naman," gets a makeover in this album. It still banks on sentimentality and romance.

They retained the lyrics and melody of Rene and Dennis Garcia, but young listeners might not understand why Rio Locsin is tagged as a femme fatale here. Yes, Locsin was one of the sexy nymphets in the '70s but, these days, viewers see her playing mother roles.

Barbie should have changed the line "*di pagpapalit kahit kay* Rio Locsin" into something more familiar and trendy.

"Tanging Pangarap"
Rachel Alejandro
Viva Records

Rachel Alejandro shows that she's a hopeless romantic with this album. Most of the songs portray love in different situations. Rachel's voice still has that distinct coolness, but it's more mature and intense.

"Tanging Pangarap" is about a girl's hidden feelings. It's catchy. The lyrics have easy recall, with the usual romantic mush Filipinos like.

Revivals "Somebody" and "Ikaw Lang" undergo an interesting twist in Rachel's hands. Yes, these songs are still romantic and sweet, but she has managed to put a sensual texture and feeling into them.

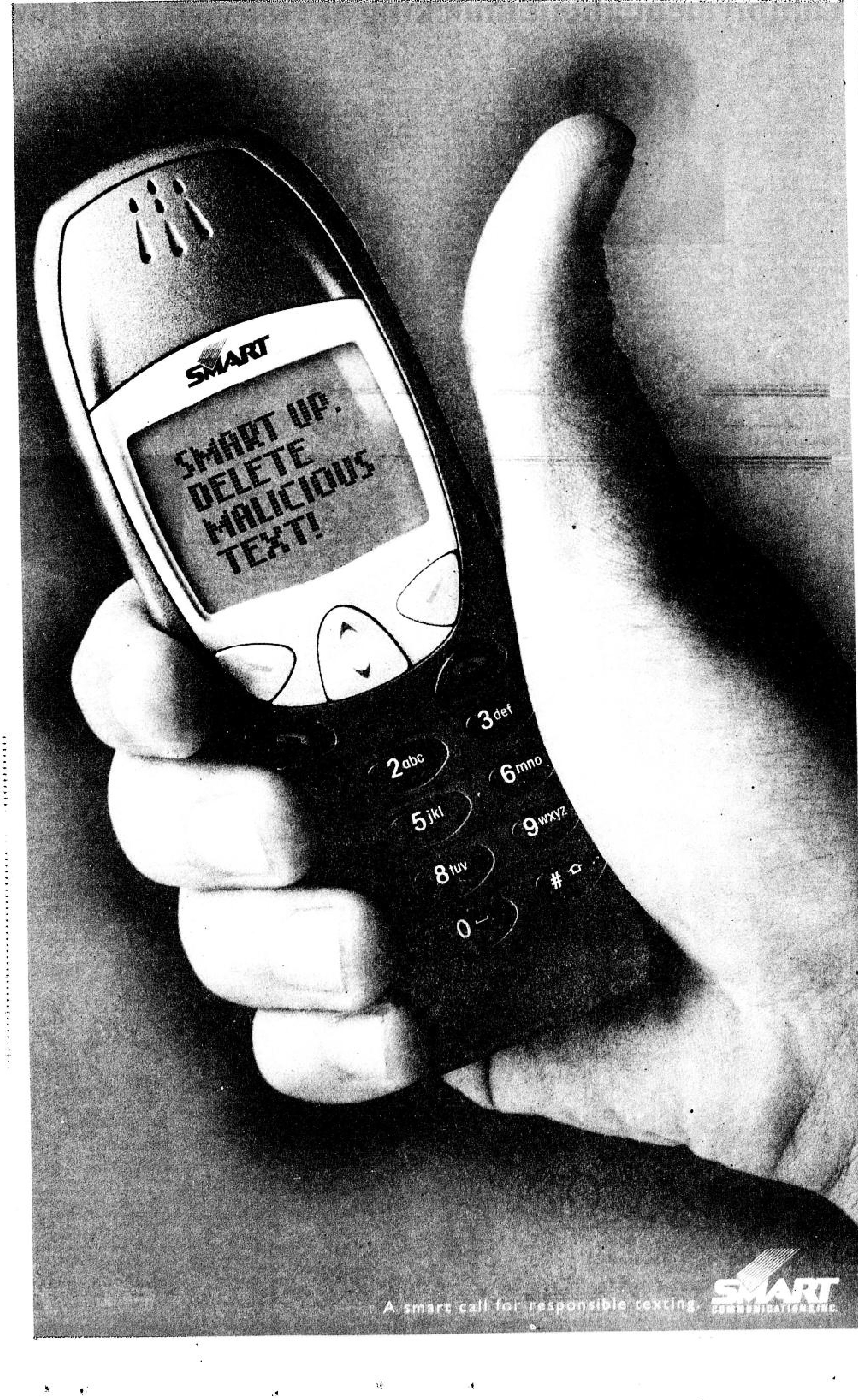
Likewise, revivals "On My Own," "Narito" and "Yakapin Mo Ako," display Rachel's inventiveness. She stamps these songs with her personal style, depth and coolness. OK, her version may not be as good as Martin Nievera or Joey Albert's, but at least she tries to be original.

"Ako Lang Ang Mamahalin" has a simple melody but it speaks about one's eternal wish to be loved eternally.

"For Everything" and "High On Love" imitate the sound and groove of the Corrs. The experience is akin to listening to live music because the songs are so bouncy and trendy. If you want to hit the dance floor or stay awake while you drive, these songs will do it for you.

"Forever And A Day" and "As Young Girls Dream" are bonuses. If you missed the Metropop songfest and the musical production, "Firewaterwoman," this album seals the deal for you.

ALMALBIS. Barbie's Cradle's vocalist, band leader and guitarist.



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SHOW WORLD

Stars to party before Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - If Hollywood's biggest stars look a little red-eyed at the Academy Awards next week, it will probably be because they were up late at some of the big studio parties the night before.

Four studios with films up for best picture — Universal, DreamWorks, USA Films and Miramax — won't be having traditional after-parties on Oscar night, Daily Variety says.

Instead, all four plan big bashes the night before, on March 24.

Organizers give a number of reasons for shifting from Oscar-night to Oscar-eve, including fatigue after the long night at the Shrine Auditorium. But one reason seems to stand out:

"The night before the awards, the nominees are all still winners," one studio exec told the trade journal.

"Wally Cleaver" sues TV Land

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Actor Tony Dow, better known as Wally Cleaver on the 1950s sitcom "Leave It To Beaver," is suing cable network TV Land for allegedly using and altering his image in ads without his permission.

The print, television and outdoor billboard ads show a photograph of a young Dow with tattoos on his chest and arms, accompanied by the words: "Times Change. Great TV Doesn't," according to his lawsuit filed here recently.

Dow claims TV Land altered the original image and portrayed him in "an unwholesome and negative light, quite contrary to the image of the character which he played on "Leave it to Beaver.""

The actor says his image is "an extremely valuable commercial right."

He claims he would have been paid "a very large sum of money" if he and TV Land had struck a legitimate deal.

Producers want rollbacks, writers' union claims

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The film and television industry demanded 14 separate "rollbacks" in the guild's contract before talks broke off, the Writers Guild of America charges.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the guild said the companies want "rollbacks" in network and syndication residuals, pension contributions, the Internet, low-budget films, publication rights and other areas.

But the companies' negotiators deny the charge, saying none of their proposals amount to rollbacks from the current contract, which expires on May 1.

Talks between the two sides broke off on March 1.

Erin Brockovich scholarships at UCLA

UNIVERSAL CITY, California (AFP) - Universal Pictures and UCLA have established a scholarship program in honor of activist Erin Brockovich for students studying environmental and social justice.

Universal — which made the film starring Julia Roberts based on Brockovich's true story — kicked in $100,000 for the program, the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, said Thursday last week.

As a file clerk working in a law office, Brockovich and her employer, Ed Masry (Albert Finney) took on the utility company responsible for contaminating the groundwater in her small California town, and won the largest settlement ever paid in a direct-action lawsuit.

Brockovich conducted some of her legal research at UCLA.

"Erin Brockovich" has been nominated for five Academy Awards, including best picture.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Jolina Magdangal wants to hold on to her wholesome image

By Edmund L. Sicam

UNLIKE fellow young star Rica Peralejo, Jolina Magdangal, who topbills ABS-CBN's new sitcom "Arriba, Arriba" aired Saturdays at 7 p.m., is determined to maintain her wholesome image. The singer/actress, who turns 23 this year, wants to handle more "*dalaga*" roles but not to the extent of shedding her clothes.

The best thing about "Arriba, Arriba," is that it allows Jolina to do two things she loves—singing and comedy. Although she sometimes misses her drama roles, she says she enjoys making peop[illegible]. Because of the format of the si[illegible] can also do musical numbers, l[illegible]sic videos.

It's not an easy show to do, though. Taping takes from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next day; and by 3 a.m., she's physically exhausted. So what does she do to keep awake? She doesn't pop any pill nor consumes cups and cups of coffee but drinks a lot of water and juices so her bladder is always full. Thus, she has to keep going to the comfort room.

When the final product finally airs on TV, Jolina says her exhaustion disappears. Then it's time to prepare for the next episode.

Aside from her ABS-CBN shows, she's busy on another TV project for the international market. She's been asked to voice one of the cartoon characters in a Turner International project, "Get Tooned Too." The animators actually drew the cartoon to Jolina's likeness and her voice will not need any drastic change. Viewers who know her will still recognize her voice.

She has other foreign projects, mostly solo concerts, two of them to be held in Sydney, Australia this month. Then she's off to the United States for more performances in Chicago on April 6, where singer David Pomeranz will be her guest.

Other shows are scheduled in Virginia on April 7, New Jersey on April 8, Reno on April 14 and San Francisco on April 15. If all goes well, she will open Jolina's Fashion Gallery in Honolulu, Guam and San Francisco.

MAGDANGAL. Feels more independent.

REVILLA. The barangay captain becomes "Ang Panday."

When she returns, she will resume her promo activities for her latest album, "Red Alert," a remix of her previous hits.

We asked her if she felt more independent now that she's about to turn 23. She replied in the affirmative but from her reply, we gathered that her dad still plays a major role in her career and private life. Jolina explains, though, that this is the way she likes it. She feels better if her dad has a say in her life.

Even when it comes to going out with guys, the elder Magdangal has a strong influence. Why, he even asks her not to go home later than 2 a.m. especially when she has taping the next day. This she appreciates because she knows it's for her own good.

Up to now, Jolina has not experienced any serious romantic involvement because she feels she hasn't found the right man. Her type of guy? He doesn't have to be a looker but should be someone who's "*matalino, maganda ang* breeding *at mahal ang kanyang pamilya, kasi kung mahal niya ang kanyang pamilya, aalagaan niya ng husto ang sarili niyang pamilya*." When we kidded her that this would probably happen when she's 30, she objected, saying it would probably come sooner than that.

She prefers someone who's not in show business because of all the intrigue that a romance involving her will generate."*Nag-uusuap pa lang kayo, kung ano ano na ang sinusulat tungkol sa inyong dalawa*," she sighs.

Juist how wholesome is Jolina? We asked her if she's ever used the "F" word and other expletives. No, she said. So what's the strongest word she's ever used to express her anger? After a long pause, she said, "*Sinungaling*!"

'Panday' returns on 'Idol Ko Si Kap'

Bong Revilla reprises the role of Flavio, "Ang Panday" on "Idol Ko Si Kap's" version of the classic adventure, "Ang Pagbabalik ng Panday," airing today at 7 p.m. on GMA. Shot on location in lahar country, Porac, Pampanga, the episode has Bong fighting a battalion of evil creatures from the underworld to save his hometown, Pitong Burol.

Other characters in the special episode are Ang Ermitanyo (Leo Martinez), Prinsesa Lubakya (Lana Asanin), Konde Malaki (Jimmy Santos), Ulo ni Lizarda (Kuya Germs), and Bruha (Luz Valdez).

Javier Bardem ambivalent about knocking at Hollywood's door

By Mar Roman

MADRID, Spain—Javier Bardem has long been a celebrity in his native land. He's descended from a dynasty of famous actors, and he's won two Goyas, Spain's equivalent of the Oscars.

Since first appearing before a camera at age 4, Bardem has worked with top Spanish directors, including Pedro Almodovar in "Live Flesh" as well as Bigas Luna and Manuel Gomez Pereira.

Nomination

Now that he's earned an Academy Award nomination for his portrayal of Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas in "Before Night Falls," the muscular actor who once worked as a nightclub bouncer and stripper is ambivalent about gaining similar stature in the United States.

"I'm not crazy about getting rich and famous in Hollywood. I'm already that here in Spain," Bardem said.

He turned down a part in Steven Spielberg's new movie "Minority Report" as well as a co-starring role in "Basic Instinct II" with Sharon Stone.

His next screen appearance will be an English-speaking role in "The Dancer Upstairs," John Malkovich's directing debut and a political thriller about the Peruvian Shining Path guerrillas.

Bardem initially didn't want to star in "Before Night Falls" because he was afraid his English wasn't good enough. When he finally took on the role, he studied Tom Hanks' work.

Now he's competing against Hanks in the best actor category (as well as Russell Crowe, Ed Harris and Geoffrey Rush).

"I admire those actors, so I don't really feel like I'm competing with them," Bardem says. "I know only one of us can win, but for me to be nominated with those giant actors is already more than enough."

Main idea

He rushed to add: "That doesn't mean that I don't want to win. I want to win because if I win the movie also wins. And the main idea for me behind all this is to get more people to see the movie and to be able to hear Reinaldo's voice."

BARDEM. The next Antonio Banderas?

The movie is based on Arenas' memoirs of his life in Cuba, where he was persecuted and imprisoned, and later in the United States, where he died in 1990. (The book "Before Night Falls" appeared in English in 1993.)

"It is funny that I'm competing against Hanks in the Oscar race," Bardem says, "because he helped me a lot in my work. As part of my preparations for the scenes when Arenas develops AIDS, I saw several documentaries about the disease and I also saw Hanks many times in 'Philadelphia.'"

Additional help came from Arenas' books and film clips of his interviews.

"To imitate a person is easy," he says. "But instead of imitating him, I wanted to know how he was inside, what he felt. And for me his books were a great help in getting that picture."

What books did he read?

Poetry

"Many. 'Before Night Falls,' 'The Color of Summer,' his poetry ... I think that, rather than an intellectual, he was an emotional person, who wrote to let people know what happened to him and to his generation. That I liked very much. When I read his books it felt like I was having a conversation with him. There was not a distance between me, as a reader, and him as the author."

Could the 32-year-old best-actor nominee be the next Antonio Banderas, the Spaniard who found fame in Hollywood?

In the early '90s, Banderas left for Hollywood without speaking English. His career took off, making him the only Spanish actor known internationally following his performances in ``Evita," ``The Mask of Zorro" and ``Desperado."

"I haven't got it clear whether I want to follow Banderas' steps," Bardem says.

For most Spanish actors and films, the English-speaking market remains difficult to penetrate.

Andres Vicente Gomez, Spain's leading producer and the man responsible for seven films starring Bardem, insists that Spain should capitalize on international—and particularly U.S.—interest sparked by Almodovar, Banderas, Penelope Cruz and Bardem.

"The fact that a Spanish actor has been nominated (for an Oscar) proves that we in Spain are capable of producing a good film industry," Vicente Gomez said.

For years, the only Spanish films to be seen abroad were mostly confined to the art houses.

Wide attention

Now Spanish films are receiving wide attention abroad and winning awards at international festivals.

The kingpin has been Almodovar, winner of last year's Academy Award for best foreign film, "All About My Mother." (His earlier films jump-started the careers of many young Spanish actors, including Bardem, Banderas and Cruz.) Jose Luis Garci's "The Grandfather" and Carlos Saura's "Tango" were nominated for the Oscars a year earlier. And Fernando Trueba's "Calle 54," praised at last year's New York Film Festival, is due for a limited U.S. release in May. *AP*

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Jackson, Simon, Aerosmith and Queen top rock hall entries

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Aerosmith may have sold millions of records and played in front of thousands of people, but the band was far from jaded after being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for their three decade-long career.

Overwhelming

"It's totally overwhelming, because when you see all these people up there that you cut your teeth on, and listened to and heard, to think that you've got a room next to Elvis Presley now, is like, wow!" Aerosmith's lead singer Steven Tyler said as he held his induction trophy backstage.

Aerosmith recently joined Michael Jackson, Paul Simon, Queen and Steely Dan in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Also inducted were the doo-wop group The Flamingos, "La Bamba" singer Ritchie Valens, soul singer Solomon Burke, sidemen Johnnie Johnson and James Burton, and Chris Blackwell, the founder of Island Records.

For Jackson and Simon, it was their second trip to the hall—both were previously inducted for their legendary beginnings with The Jackson Five and Simon and Garfunkel.

Simon said the past honor did not lessen the night's achievement.

Gratifying

"One recognizes a certain part of my work, and this recognizes the period that followed it. They're both equally gratifying," he said.

Onstage, Simon was effusive in his thanks: He delivered a rambling acceptance speech that ran 10 minutes long. Among those who got thanks were Quincy Jones and his bandleader father.

But he got his biggest reaction when he mentioned his former partner, Art Garfunkel. Simon said, "I regret the ending of our friendship, and I hope that one day before I die we will make peace with each other."

After the audience applauded warmly, Simon deadpanned, "No rush."

Jackson, who broke his foot recently at his ranch, hobbled on stage after a tribute by boy band 'N Sync.

"As you can see, there's not going to be any moonwalking tonight," said Jackson.

In a typically short speech, Jackson thanked Motown founder Berry Gordy and Diana Ross, whom he called his "second mother." He also paid tribute to his parents for blessing him with his talent.

"To me, the gift of music has been a great blessing, from the time I was a child," Jackson said.

Aerosmith, called "the greatest rock band in American history," by Detroit rap rocker Kid Rock, thanked their families for supporting a career that included stardom, a steep fall and surprising resurrection. The band's new album debuted this week at No. 2 on the Billboard charts and they have a top 20 hit with "Jaded," but they were honored for work that included the prototype rock ballad, "Dream On,"

Comparison

Tyler made a wry reference to the unflattering early comparison of Aerosmith to the Rolling Stones and his own resemblance to the band's singer.

JACKSON. Second trip to the Hall of Fame.

"I wonder if this will put an end to, 'Hey, aren't you Mick Jagger?'" he said.

Queen, whose lead singer Freddie Mercury died of AIDS in 1991, performed "We Will Rock You" as a trio and invited Foo Fighter Dave Grohl to sing an incendiary version of "Tie Your Mother Down." Mercury's mother, Jer Bulsara, accepted her late son's trophy.

Steely Dan was inducted by the techno-artist Moby, who said, "They always seemed different somehow. On the one hand, their music is warm and beautiful, but on the other hand it is so unsettling."

The group, which consists of the reclusive duo of Donald Fagen and Walter Becker, won three Grammys last month, including album of the year for "Two Against Nature."

Ricky Martin inducted Valens, the most prominent Latin rocker of rock's early days, who died in the same 1959 plane crash that killed Buddy Holly.

The Flamingos were best-known for their lush, romantic ballad "I Only Have Eyes for You." The adult children of several members who have since died joined other Flamingo members onstage to accept their trophy.

Tribute

Blackwell, given a tribute by U2 lead singer Bono, was inducted in the non-performing category.

The Rolling Stones' Keith Richards, wearing what appeared to be keychains in his hair, inducted Johnnie Johnson, piano player for Chuck Berry, into the hall in the "sidemen" category. Elvis Presley guitarist James Burton also was given that honor.

Richards said he identified with sidemen, who have to "watch this bum with a hairdo" to make sure he doesn't make a fool of himself.

The irascible Berry was absent from the ceremony honoring his 28-year musical partner, which was no surprise, considering Johnson recently filed suit against him seeking millions of dollars in past royalties for songs he says he co-wrote. *AP*

Saturday SPECIAL

Ann-Margret makes her stage debut

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—The voice is still baby-doll breathy, barely above a whisper, as Ann-Margret sits perched on a couch in a hotel suite high above midtown Manhattan.

Fabulous figure

The hair is lighter, more strawberry than reddish auburn these days, but the shy, sexy smile and fabulous figure haven't changed much. She's dressed in a black pants suit, set off by gold jewelry and a cast on one arm, the result of a fall. (More on that later.)

After some four decades in show business, the woman who in the 1960s and early '70s fueled the fantasies of a generation of hormonal young men has decided for the first time to tackle musical theater.

She's talking about why it took her so long to do a book musical, more specifically her just-begun, year-long journey with "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," the 1978 Broadway musical about the notorious Chicken Ranch and its no-nonsense, money-savvy madam, Miss Mona.

"I would get into things and then I would pull out," Ann-Margret says. "I couldn't imagine being away from my home, my family, my animals for that length of time."

Home is California; family, of course, is her husband and manager of more than 30 years, Roger Smith, and the animals include six cats and one dog, a Maltese called Missy who thinks she's a cat. Her long-lasting marriage to Smith, may be, in her own words, "my greatest triumph," but it's those felines—Birdie (as in "Bye Bye Birdie"), Ariel, Peachie, Jezebel, Slugger and Mei-Ling—that get her chatting.

Latest fall

"I love it when I talk about cats. So many people are afraid of them for some reason," she says with wonder, even though it was Jezebel, a long-haired calico, who contributed to her latest fall. Ann-Margret tripped over the animal on Christmas Eve. The result was a broken wrist and she had to play the first few performances of "Whorehouse" with the cast still on.

Miss Mona is a role tailor-made for Ann-Margret. The madam, portrayed two decades ago by Carlin Glynn, is a sexy, adult woman, not afraid of a little flirting and a little fun.

"The original 'Whorehouse' was a crowd pleaser," says Thommie Walsh, who assisted Tommy Tune on the first production and now is directing the revival. "It was the perfect blend of comedy and dance. It was by Texans, for Texans and with Texans, according to Tune. But our version will be a whole lot sexier."

Ann-Margret's name was bandied about for the movie version of "Whorehouse," a role that eventually went to Dolly Parton, and she was mentioned, too, for the show's stage sequel, "The Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public," which was a quick flop on Broadway.

Doing the revival, though, took some convincing.

Former dancer

It helped that Walsh, a former dancer, had worked with Ann-Margret in Las Vegas in the 1970s. "I had never seen the play and was too embarrassed to say anything," she says.

Ann-Margret eventually did see a videotape of the show and found herself mesmerized by the musical. "It goes from full-out comedy and then it hits you right there," she says, pointing to her heart.

There was an added inducement. Carol Hall, the musical's composer and lyricist, wrote a new song for her—"A Friend to Me," to be sung to the sheriff, Mona's love interest in the show, played by Gary Sandy, who's probably still best remembered as the program director on "WKRP in Cincinnati."

"You're a friend to me, a very good friend to me, no reason or rhyme, you just took some time, to be a true friend to me," Ann-Margret suddenly starts singing—soft country-rock meets Broadway.

"She is a trouper—and a stunning actress," says Walsh. "And I am one of those disciplinarians—you do it again and again and again. You don't really have to dance in this show, but because the star is who she is, we are going to want to do more than in the original."

For Ann-Margret—who turns 60 on April 28—"Whorehouse" could be another of those defining moments in a long career.

"Age is just a natural progression. Everyone knows my age," she says, matter of factly, and, with the help of Smith, she has made some astute career choices over the years.

Teen years

That career has taken her from her native Sweden at age 5 to her teen years in the Chicago suburbs to Las Vegas where she was discovered by George Burns and put into his club act.

"I learned so much about performing from him," she says—and from Burns' wife, Gracie Allen. The duo would rehearse in Burns' home and then the legendary comedian would say, "OK, Gracie's going to come in and if she likes it, we'll go with it. She's the last word," says the actress, doing a credible imitation of Burns' gravelly voice.

In 1962, Ann-Margret sang the title song from "Bachelor in Paradise" on the Oscar telecast. The song didn't win, but the audience noticed her provocative interpretation and although she had already done two movies, it landed her the film version of "Bye Bye Birdie," another attention-getter.

Hit Broadway musicals usually get reworked for the movies, but it's not often a supporting character in the stage version graduates to star status in the film. It happened here, though, when Ann-Margret, playing the world's most fully developed teen-ager, got to kiss a rock 'n' roll idol being drafted into the Army. Not only was she given a new song—the title number, no less—but she got to sing it at the beginning and the end of the movie.

Its success brought her a succession of sexy, bad-girl roles in mostly forgettable movies. But they do include the 1964 "Kitten with a Whip," a weird mixture of film noir and high camp. As Jody, a conflicted 17-year-old runaway, Ann-Margret attempted to seduce and save senatorial candidate John Forsythe, often at the same time.

Temptress

"Don't ask me why. I can't help it," this teen-age temptress said in one of the movie's more probing psychological moments. "I see something all bright and shiny, and right away, I've got to pull it apart to see what makes it run. And then it never runs again."

It was Smith, whom Ann-Margret married in 1967, who helped turn her career around, getting her to play nightclubs and do more quality movies, including "Carnal Knowledge," directed by Mike Nichols.

The 1971 film is a bitter, brutal movie about the not very-nice way some men treat women. Ann-Margret got an Oscar nomination for playing Bobbie, the voluptuous mistress of Jack Nicholson. She was never more beautiful—or vulnerable.

The next year, she faced her greatest challenge. While appearing at a hotel in Lake Tahoe, she fell 22 feet (6.6 meters) to the stage, receiving a concussion and more than a few broken bones.

"It's so strange to me," Ann-Margret says now about the accident. "That was the first and last time Roger was not at the show. I knew I had to face the same stage or I never would have gotten on stage again."

Ten weeks later, she was performing at the same club.

These days, she finds work on made-for-TV movies, many of them produced by her company, and guest spots on select television series, such as "Touched by an Angel."

Now with "Whorehouse," Ann-Margret is a national tour, eight performances a week, and each week, most likely, a different city.

The prospect doesn't faze her.

"I'm used to doing 14 a week with my nightclub appearances," she says. "It won't be problem, but I will miss my cats." *AP*

After some four decades in show business, she has decided to tackle musical theater for the first time

ANN-MARGRET. The shy,sexy smile and fabulous figure haven't changed much.

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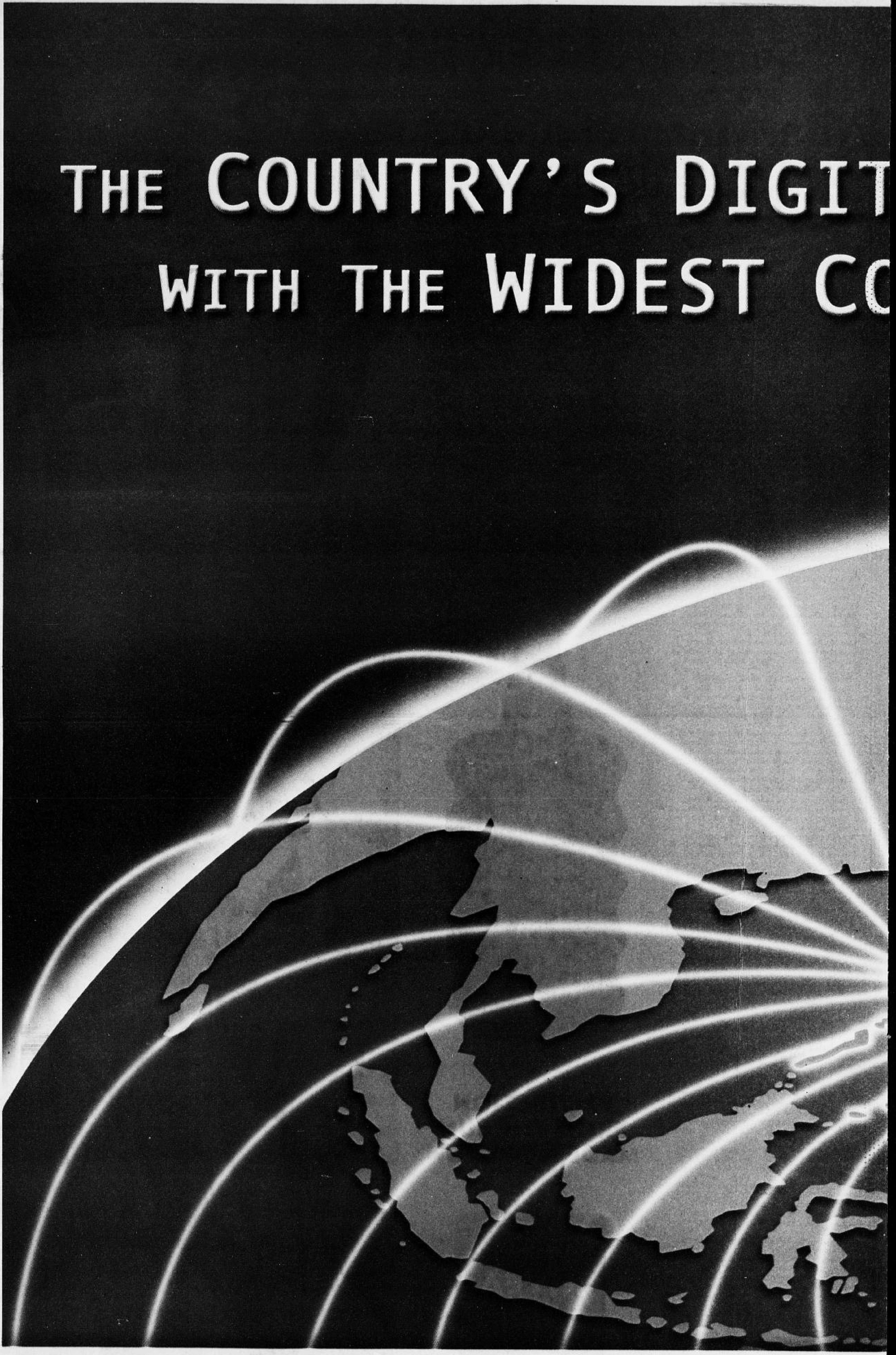
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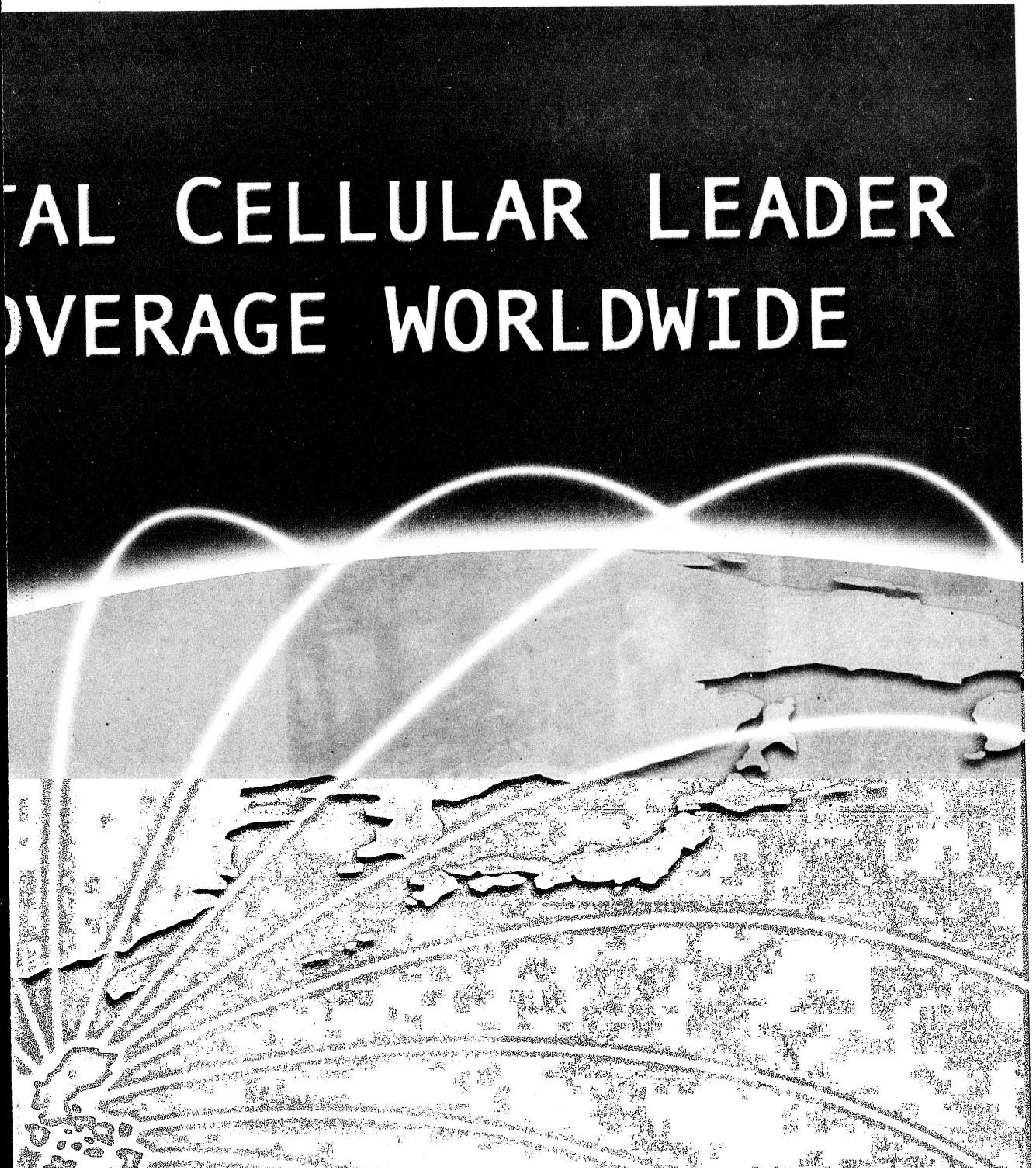

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y explores the world for stories to tell. "If there's one thing I bring th me everywhere I go, it's my Globe. It's easier to get in touch, ove around and coordinate stuff—just like having a dependable lleague around all the time," she describes of her relationship th her Globe Handyphone.

ery time she goes on location shoots here or abroad for *Che-Che zaro Presents*, Kay would be pleasantly surprised with what her obe Handyphone can do for her. Being a Globe subscriber, she has d first hand experience on the wonders of networking abroad. ne time, we were in a chopper shooting the Hong Kong skyline my phone rang. It was a friend calling me from Manila! I was also le to carry on a conversation—without break—while in a car driving rough the tunnel connecting Hong Kong and Kowloon. And that's derwater!" she shares and goes on about her many "Globe moments." e considers her most memorable experience as the one when she as in Italy. "Through InfoText, I was able to access information about nonument which I used for my boss' spiels while we were already rolling."

ay admits that she depends on her Globe Handyphone to resolve e smallest to the biggest of issues. She adds: "My boss is just a call vay. So, I can reach her if and when I need to consult with her make quick decisions—even as we have the cameras rolling. esides, most of the people I call already have a Globe so making at connection is easy and very practical."

hen Kay finally gets her stories done after seemingly endless hours editing, she resorts to using her GENTXT card to unwind. "I just w the premier of *Hannibal* for free, courtesy of my GENTXT card. ther times, I check the movie skeds and reserve seats through y Globe and I'll be off to see a good film. And if I happen to love e theme song, I use it as my ringtone!" she beams.

here's simply nothing not available with my Globe," she concludes.

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Junior INQUIRER

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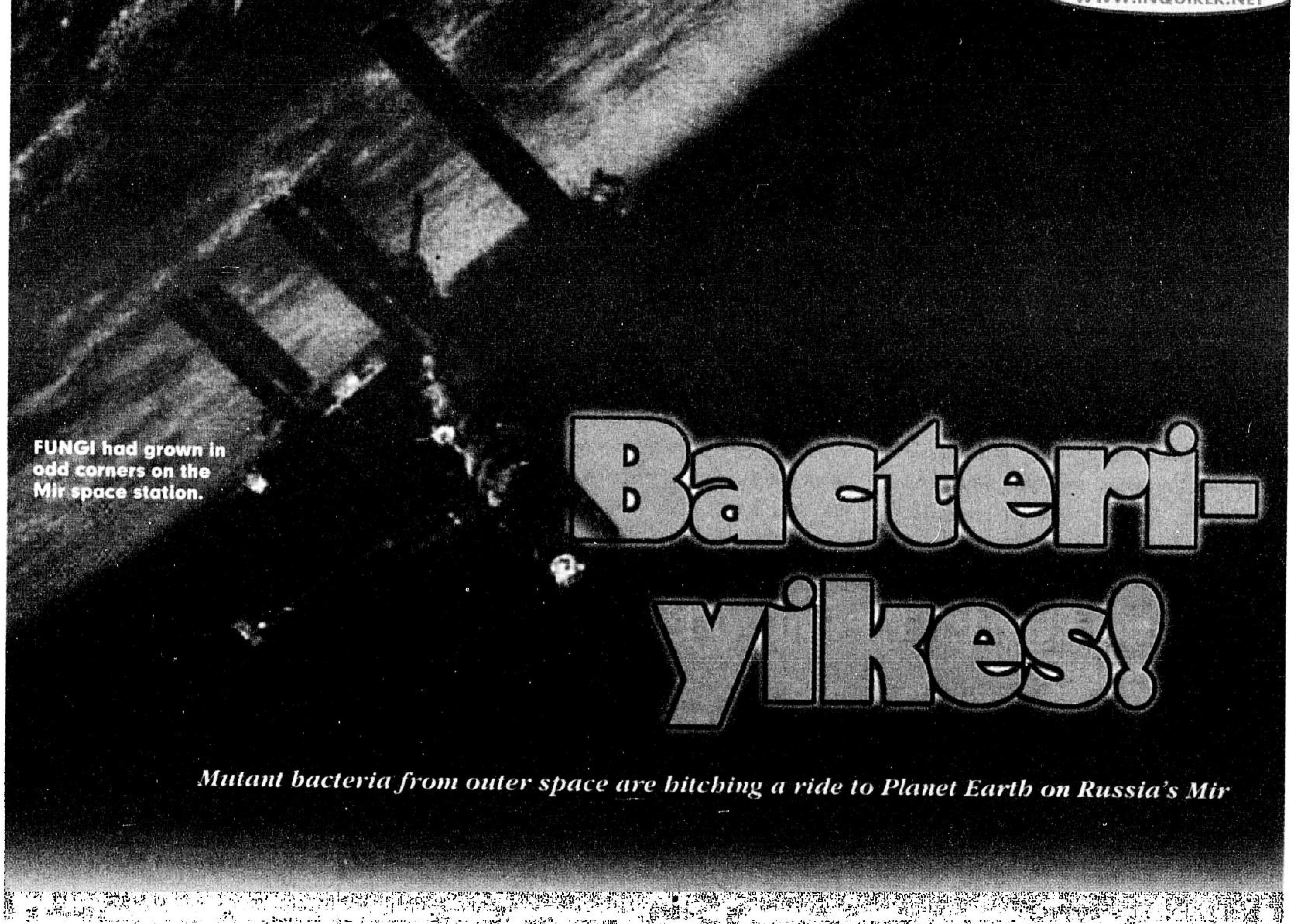


FUNGI had grown in odd corners on the Mir space station.

Bacteri-yikes!

Mutant bacteria from outer space are hitching a ride to Planet Earth on Russia's Mir

FORGET the danger of heavy-weight debris raining down from space when Russia sends the Mir orbiter to a watery grave this month—the real threat could be mutant fungi, a researcher said.

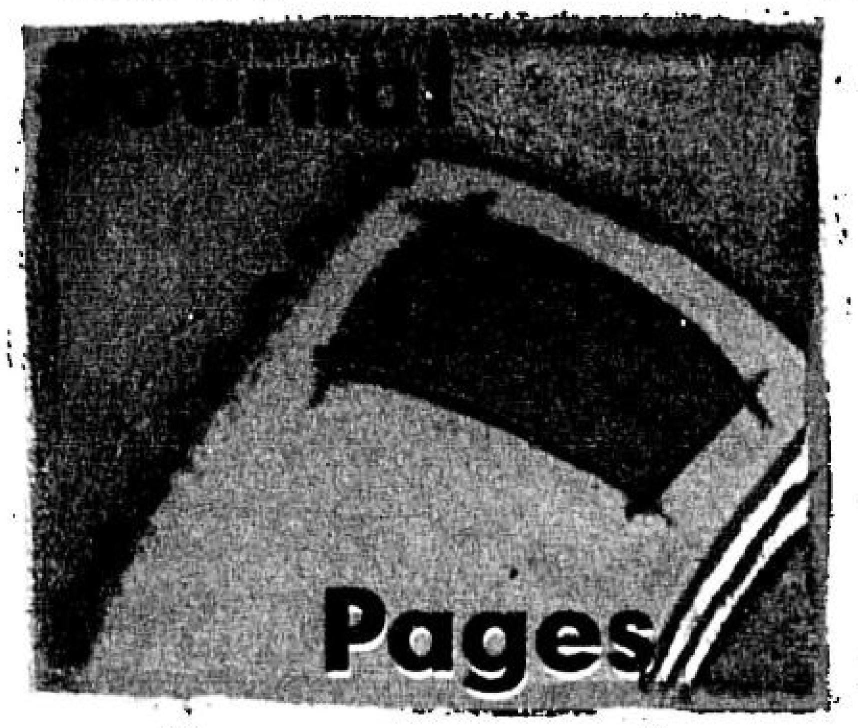
Yuri Karash, an expert on the Russian space program, said there was a possibility that microorganisms, which have spent the last 15 years mutating in isolation aboard Mir, could present a threat if they survived the fall to Earth. Russia was expected to retire the space station by plunging it into the ocean on March 22.

"I wouldn't overstate it. . .but a realistic problem exists," Karash told a news conference.

Russian space officials have played down the threat, saying the spacecraft would burn up before its debris plunges into the Pacific Ocean.

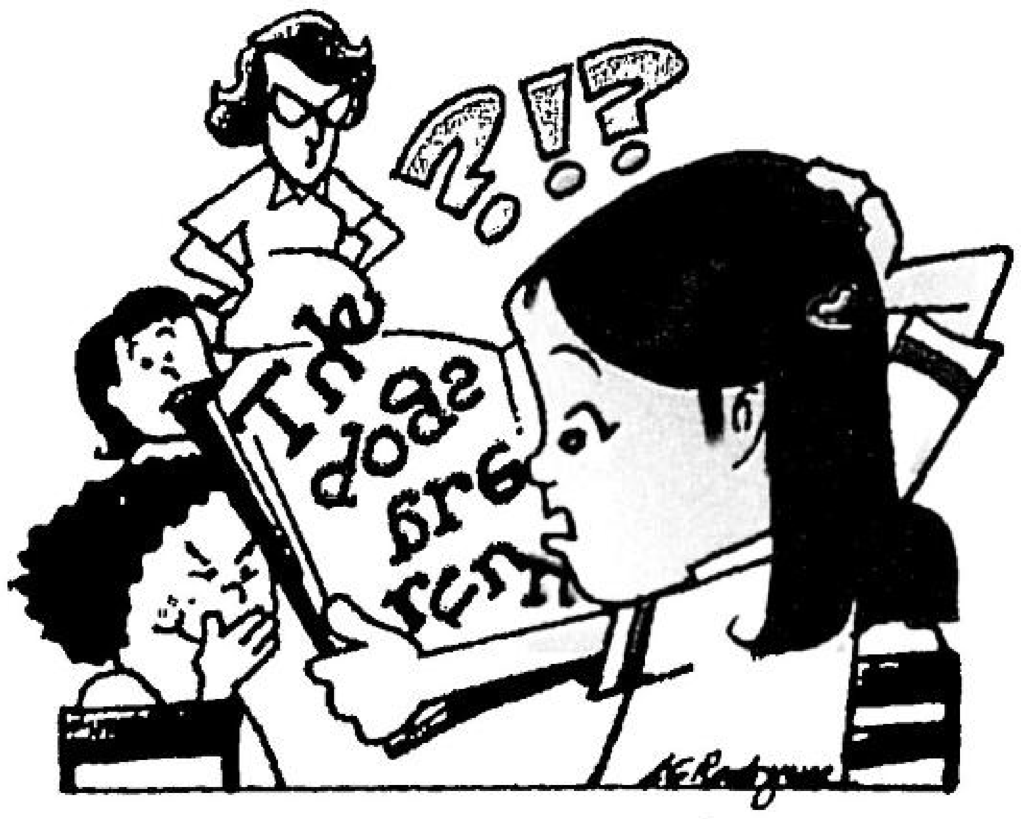
Karash, who has undergone cosmonaut training and is an aerospace advisor, said his conclusions were based on research carried out by Russia's Institute of Medical and Biological Problems.

Bacteri-yikes!/p.5



Me and my dyslexia

BY MACIE MENDIGO
PAREF ROSEHILL, ANTIPOLO



I AM dyslexic. Dyslexia is a learning disability which some people—like I—have. We sometimes find it hard to read, spell or write. We will have this for life but we can overcome it. Take note: it is not an abnormality. A lot of famous people have it and have overcome it. Even the great physicist Albert Einstein had it once. Author Hans Christian Andersen was dyslexic. So were Walt Disney and Leonardo da Vinci.

Well, for me, I find it hard to spell, write and just a little of everything. When dyslexic people read or write, *nagkakabaliktaran ang mga* letters. *Minsan, mahirap gumawa ng* straight line *o mahirap malaman kung saan ang* right or left. *Naguguluhan sila, katulad ko.*

We are also usually hyper or overactive and absent-minded in class. We usually get hyper when we eat sweets. It depends how much sweets we eat. Us dyslexics, we are very intelligent but we express it from inside going outside. Not from outside to inside.

I learned that I had dyslexia when I was only Grade 2. I was about 8 years old and studying in Poveda that time. I found almost all the subjects hard and confusing, especially Spanish. *Nahibirapan na nga ako sa pagbasa sa* English, Spanish *pa kaya.*

I was always teased, bullied and felt that people didn't care about me. And if someone ever said "I love you," or "Take care," or did something good for me, I would always remember it because not too many people liked me because of my disability. They didn't understand how much I was always hurt by what they'd say.

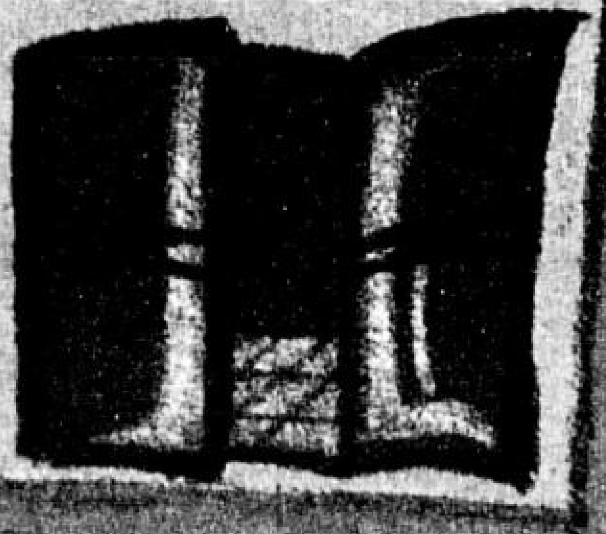
Well, before, when my parents didn't know about dyslexia or that I was dyslexic, they used to scold me and not let me do things I wanted to do. Sometimes they even said bad words to me if I failed to understand something they've

Me/p.10

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Reading Rave

YOU can learn a lot from reading, whether you're browsing through a newspaper or reading a good book. And so I'd like to tell all you TV addicts: switch to books instead of switching channels. There's really nothing wrong with television; too much of it it's the problem. By reading, you can find all sorts of interesting information and stories! You can get news, poems, facts on history, geography, and even biography. If you like writing stories or poems, reading will be a help to your writing. So to all you kids who love reading—Keep it up!—**ANNA, MARGARITA VELOSO**, 9, Batasan Hills, Quezon City

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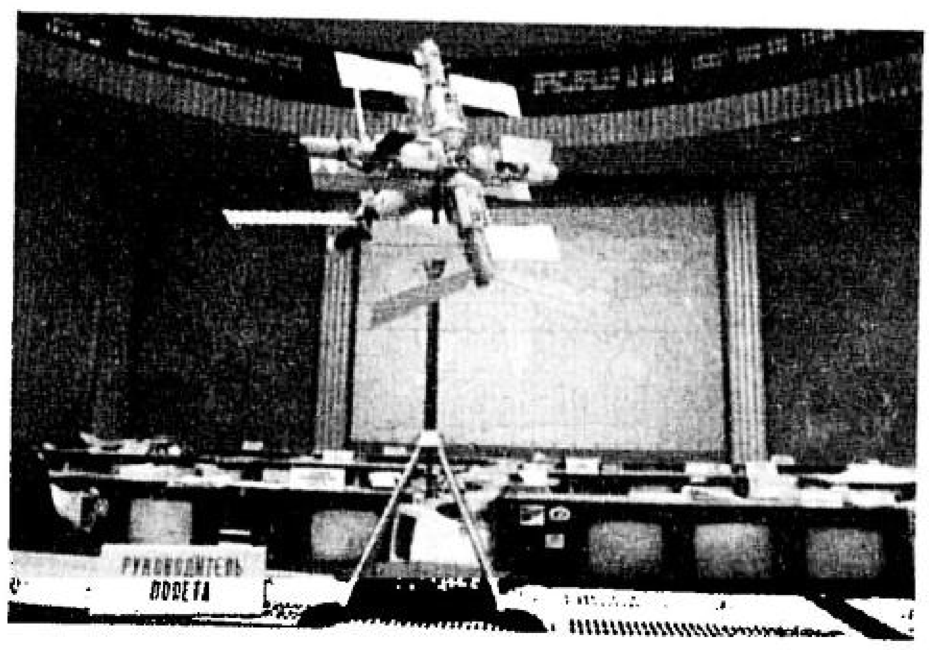


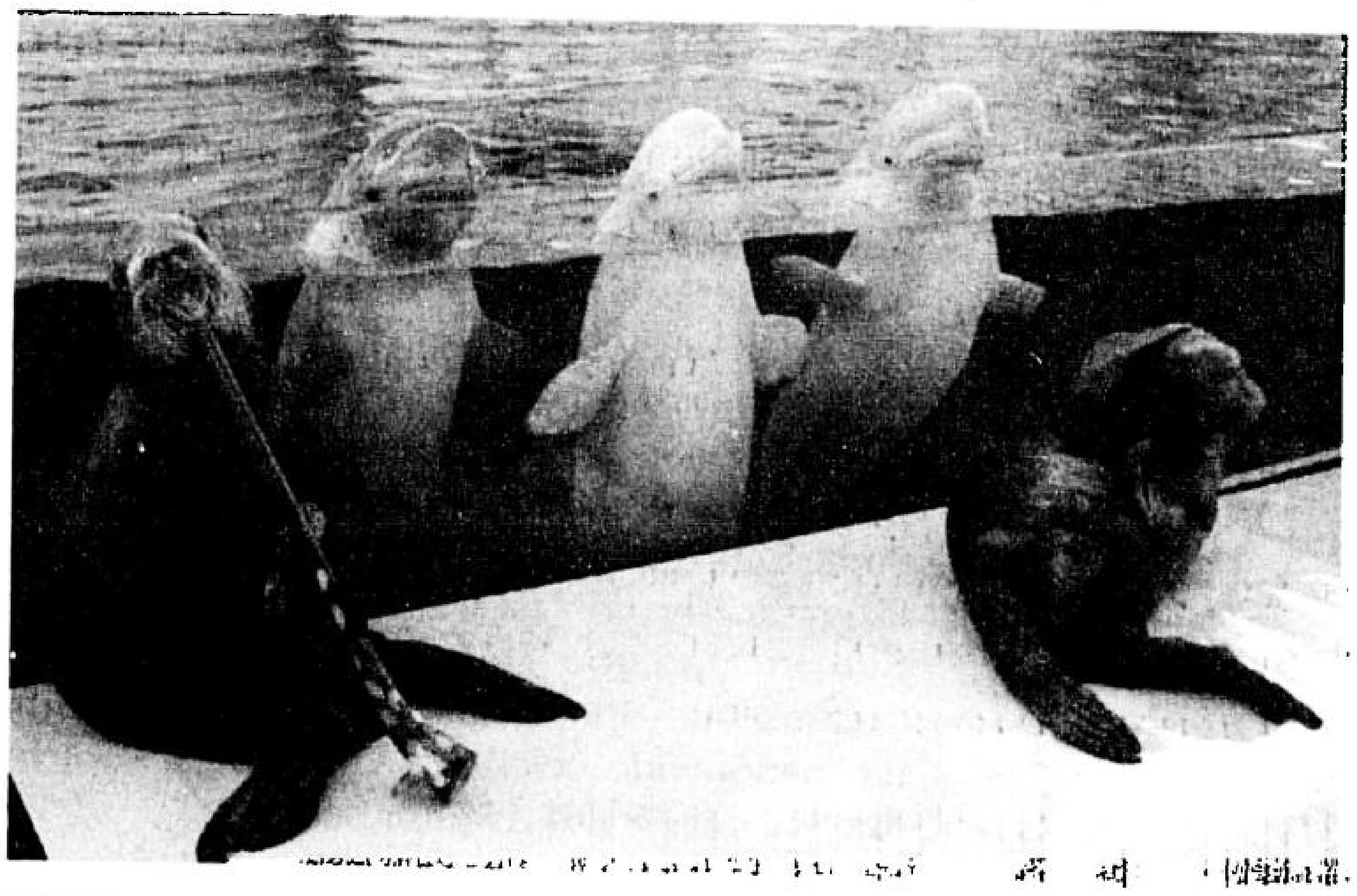
Farewell, space station Mir

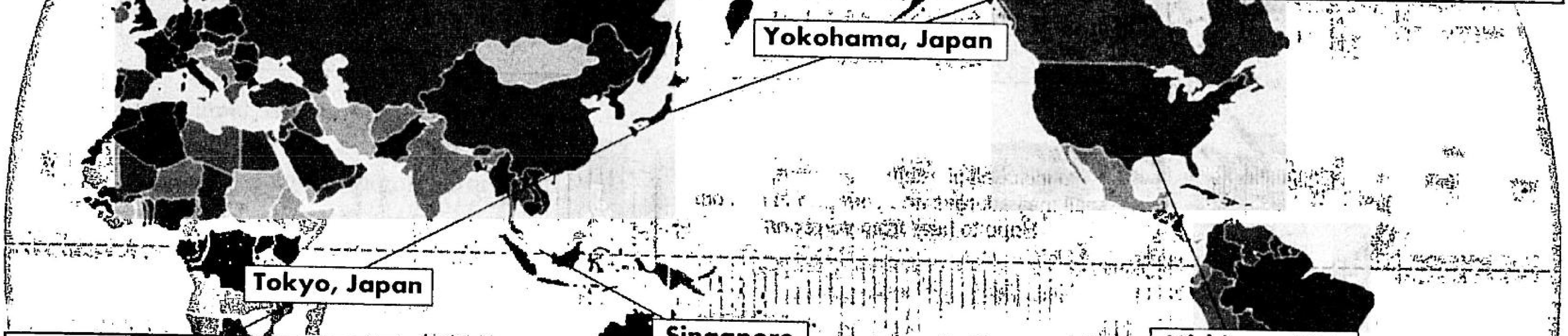
A SCALE model of the Mir space station stands in its Mission Control center, at Korolyov, outside Moscow. Russian space officials set March 22 as the date for dumping the Mir space station, saying they want to wait until the craft drifts closer to Earth before giving it the final shove toward a fiery plunge into the Pacific Ocean. The sign at left reads: Mission's Chief. *AP*

WORLD SCOPE

Oceanic melodies

"SEA animal band" members play hooky during their practice at the Sea Paradise Aquarium in this city southwest of Tokyo. The aquarium claimed that the band's debut performance on March 17 was the world's first joint performance by walruses and dolphins. In the picture, white dolphins in the glass tank—Puruka, 6, Furepa, 11, and Pururu, 7—"sing" to the flute played by 6-year-old walrus Moko (left), as lazy walrus, Piko, 6, strikes a pose. *AP*



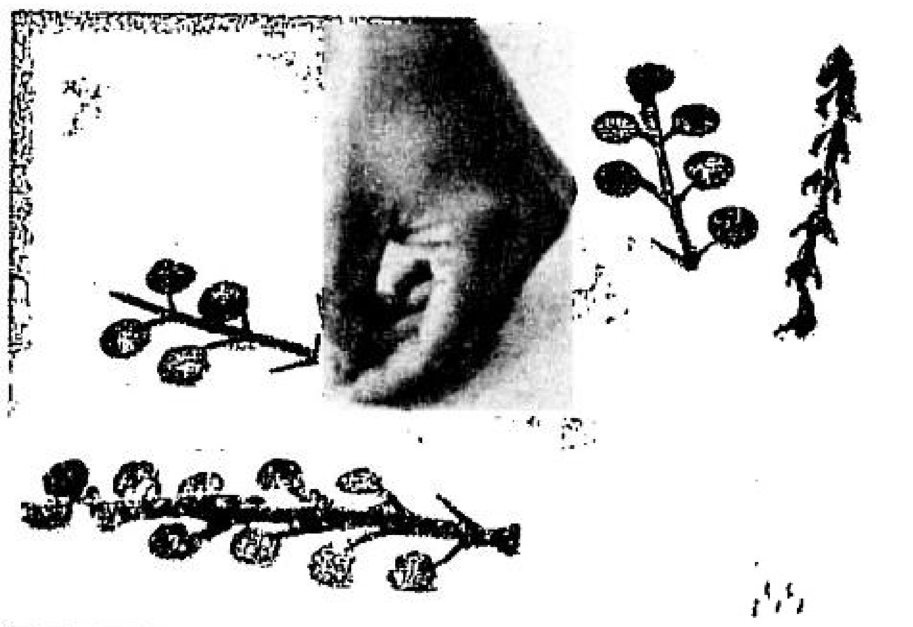


Game Boy Advance

NINTENDO campaign models Ruriko Harada (left) and Jun Suzuki display the game maker giant's Game Boy Advance machines during a press preview. The newest hand-held player, which uses a 32-bit processor, features a brighter screen than its popular predecessor. The Game Boy Advance was expected to hit the Japanese market on Mar. 21. *AP*

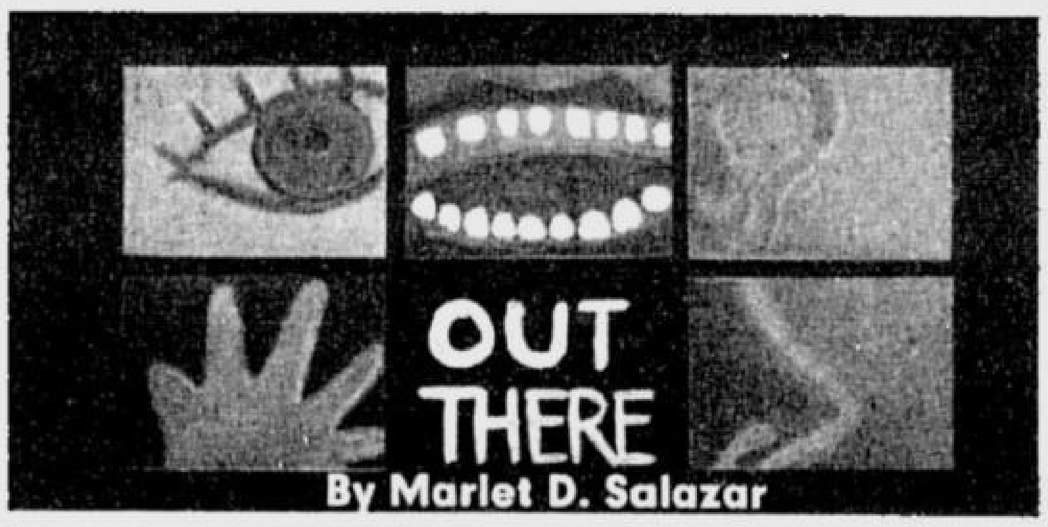
Ancient coin tree

A COIN dealer places 400-year-old tin Malaysian coinage under an auction display. The coins, which are being auctioned as part of the Asian Money Fair, were minted in the shape of a tree with the fruit-shaped coins being plucked off as needed and when empty, the whole tree was melted down to begin a new tree. *AP*



Cruisin' with web music

THE MACH MP3 player by auto parts-supplier Visteon Corp. is shown installed at the company's technical center in Allen Park. Visteon planned to market its new MP3 player on the company's website late this month. An MP3 player can play music files downloaded from the Internet. *AP*



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Announcement

BET THEY GOT FREE TOOTHPASTE. Congratulations to the winners of Colgate's first "My Bright Smile Poster" contest. The winners, grouped according to their grade levels, are: **Grade 1**—Ces Mispah R. Tinga (East Central Elementary School, Dagupan City), Jenson Gellacone (Nangka Elementary School, Cebu), Jessica T. Zamora (Midsayap Pilot Elementary School, Cotabato Province), Dave Mark S. Celum (Calbayog Pilot Elementary School, Calbayog City).

Grade 2—Faith Irish S. Asensi (Batangas City Elementary School, Batangas City), Hamela Joyce C. Filipinas (Midsayap Pilot Elementary School, Cotabato Province), Nixon P. Sibayan, (Puelay Elementary School, Pangasinan II), Regine May P. Lorenzo (Tabang Elementary School, Bulacan).

Grade 3—Stephen Wright M. Cabasal (La Torre Elementary School, Nueva Vizcaya), Ralphy A. Borlongan (Amaya Elementary School, Cavite), Eyart Jaz V. Soriano (Sero Central Elementary School, Cotabato City), Ma. Kristina Naressa M. Galang (San Nicolas Elementary School, Pampanga).

The contest was opened to all Grades 1-3 public school students participating in the Bright Smiles, Bright Future Oral Health Education Program. The contest was a joint undertaking of Colgate and the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports, and was launched during the nationwide celebration of the "Schoolchildren's Oral Health Awareness Week."

Workshops

LEARNING CAMP. Sacred Heart School invites kids 1-½-8 years old to experience the **free** summer learning camp on March 31, April 28, and May 5 and 26. Learn and have fun with its line-up of activities: arts, crafts, cooking, storytelling, games, singing, dancing plus a lot more. For more information about the schedule please call 810-8506, 894-2273, 815-3058 and look for Ms Ching or you can drop by at 2241, Sabio St. (corner Chino Roces Ave.) San Lorenzo, Makati City.

SUMMER PROGRAMS. Join the activities prepared by Dyna Minds Center for preschool and grade-school kids. There are classes on speech improvement, reading readiness, beginning reading, and developmental reading, grammar enhancement, arts and crafts. A free orientation lesson is scheduled on April 7 at 9 a.m. at 23 Lilac St., Rim View Park, Marikina City. For inquiries, call up 942-3952.

Museum Moments

WOMEN'S MONTH. Get to know a real life heroine. Vivian Chua shares her stories and adventures as a volunteer firefighter today at 10 a.m. at the Karapatan Hall of Museo Pambata along Roxas Boulevard, South Drive, Manila.

GIFT-GIVING. Learn graduation gift ideas for your friends and loved ones as your friendly theme room guides teach you how to make paper weight, candle/pencil holder, graduation necklace and cards, and do hand-painting. It's every Sunday, 2 p.m. MP Guides Corner Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, South Drive, Manila or you can inquire at 523-1797 to 98.

Dad's the One in 2001

BY NICO MIGUEL N. GARCIA
JI CORRESPONDENT
PAREF-SOUTHRIDGE SCHOOL

THERE'S a person that a boy looks up to. He's the best example in a boy's life. Some of us call him papa, daddy or *tatay*. He is the one and only father. Paref-Southridge School once again put up a major event especially dedicated to fathers: Dad's the One in 2001.

DADS cheer their sons during the tug-of-war.

BETOY JOHNSON

On Feb. 10, boys turned into men when two father-and-son teams—the House of Vinta and the House of Helm—met once more for a never seen before [illegible] battle in the field. They competed in games [illegible] Nothing, I say, nothing could dampen the spirit of the Southridge family, not the rain, not the storms, not the hurricanes. No, nature simply could not interrupt. There was 3-point shoot-out, a tug-of-war, basketball, the 800-m relay, an olympics game, the velcro wall game, a foul-throw shoot-out, the football shoot-out and the footbal juggling contest.

There were food booths to quiet hungry stomachs, a jail booth to catch everyone's attention and a souvenir shop. The high school band played their music.

We also had our school's own version of the TV show "Pera o Bayong?"

The House of Helm won but the spirit of sportsmanship was with the House of Vinta.

All of us had done a good job in showing our appreciation to our fathers, now. . .*viriliter agite* (act like a man). I'm sure everyone did.

Bacteri-yikes!

(from page 1)

Researchers have said that the fungi could be especially virulent if mixed with earth varieties that attack metal, glass and plastic.

Western health officials have in the past expressed concerns about microorganisms that could be brought back to Earth after a Russian microbiologist 13 years ago discovered the first of many aggressive forms of fungi inhabiting Mir.

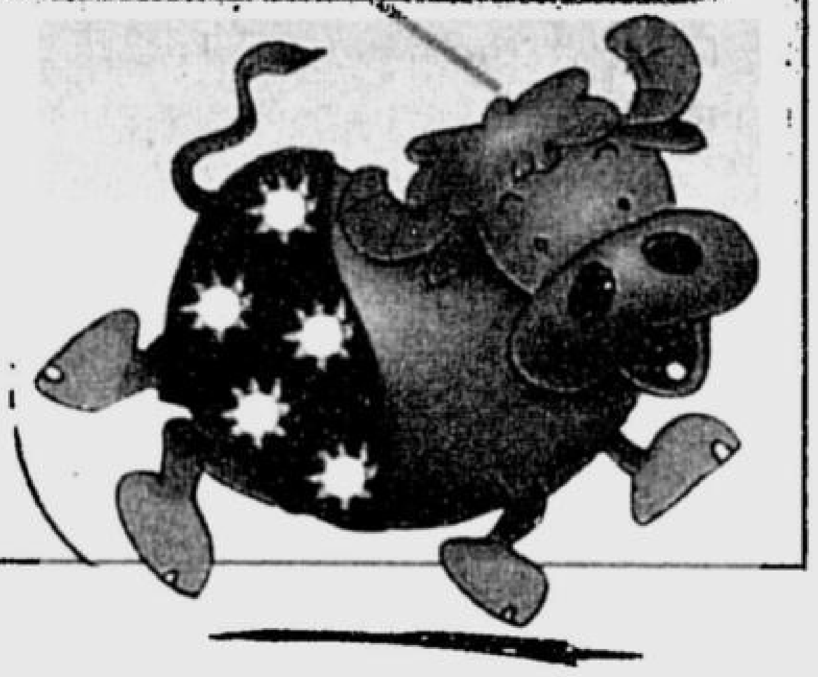
Visitors to the orbiter have found numerous types of fungi behind control panels, in air-conditioning units and on dozens of other surfaces.

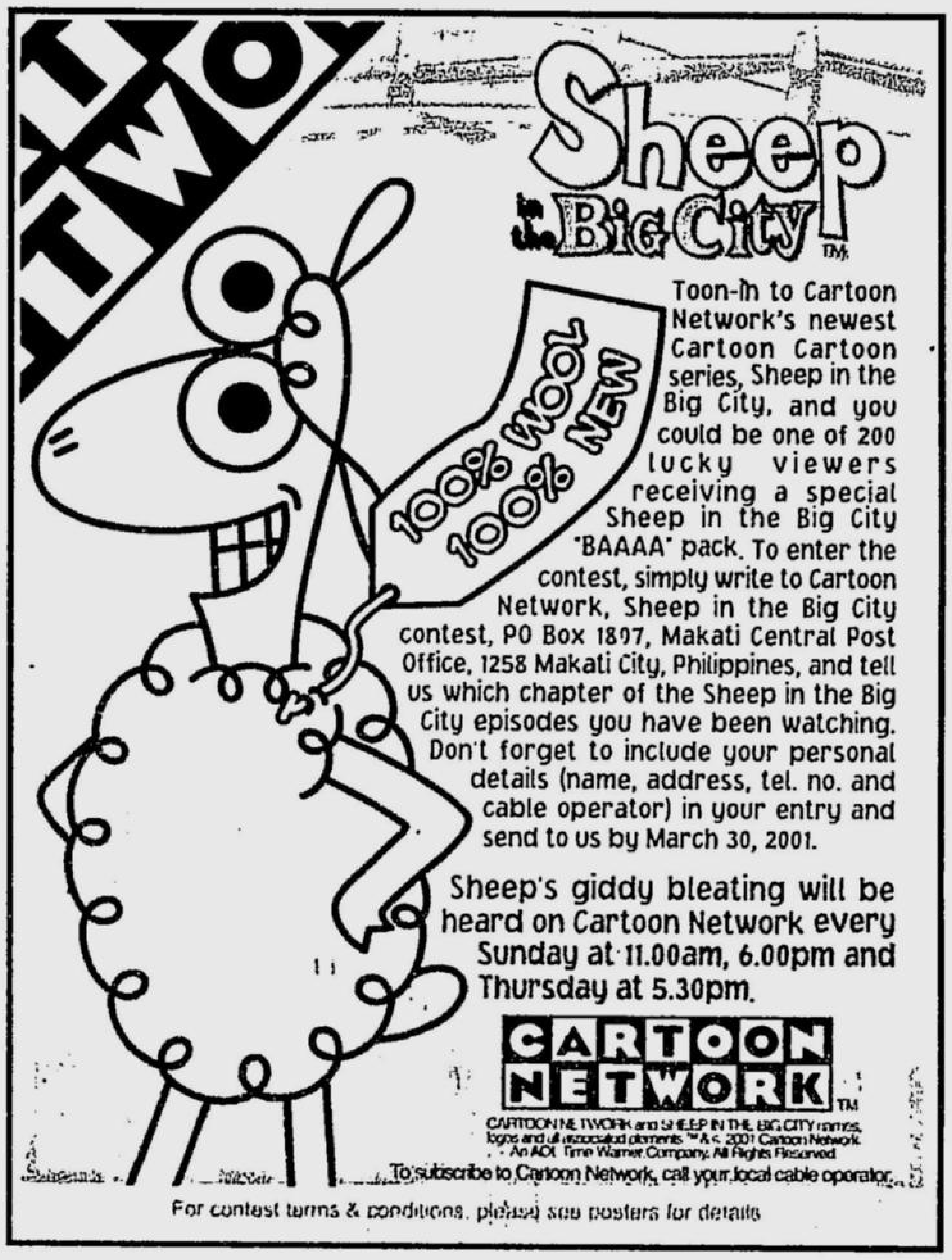
Though surprisingly destructive, they give off corrosive agents like acetic acid and release toxins into the air.

Reuters

Word Watch:

virulent / *adjective* / strongly poisonous.
corrosive agent / *noun* / no, this is not like an "insurance agent." A corrosive agent is a chemical that wears away another material.
acetic acid / *noun* / a clear liquid giving vinegar its characteristic taste.
toxins / *noun* / poisons produced by living organisms.





Sheep in the Big City™

Toon-in to Cartoon Network's newest Cartoon Cartoon series, Sheep in the Big City, and you could be one of 200 lucky viewers receiving a special Sheep in the Big City "BAAAA" pack. To enter the contest, simply write to Cartoon Network, Sheep in the Big City contest, PO Box 1807, Makati Central Post Office, 1258 Makati City, Philippines, and tell us which chapter of the Sheep in the Big City episodes you have been watching. Don't forget to include your personal details (name, address, tel. no. and cable operator) in your entry and send to us by March 30, 2001.

Sheep's giddy bleating will be heard on Cartoon Network every Sunday at 11.00am, 6.00pm and Thursday at 5.30pm.

CARTOON NETWORK™

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To subscribe to Cartoon Network, call your local cable operator.

For contest terms & conditions, please see posters for details

5 and Up Club sa McDo

What's in store for 5 and Up Club sa McDo members?

Every Sunday morning, kids turn on their TV sets and tune in to a world where they rule. 5 and Up takes its viewers on a fun and educational ride through history, science, arts and culture, sports, and the adventures of everyday life.

The 5 and Up Club sa McDo gives equally active and smart kids a chance to express themselves through workshops and craft classes. Kids can also channel their energies through sportsfests and outreach programs.

Join the 5 and Up Club sa McDo! It's your ticket to thrilling adventures and more exciting activities. The club is open to kids of all ages. So it doesn't matter if you're an ate, kuya, tito or tita. You can be an honorary member.

Members get a personalized membership card, a copy of the quarterly newsletter, big discounts at McDonald's and other establishments, and an invitation to join club activities.

So troop to the nearest McDonald's Registration Center and grab a membership form or cut out the form on this page. Fill out the form and send it back to us.

Stay tuned to 5 and Up for more details.

5 and Up reporters

5 and Up

Sundays 9:30 a.m. GMA 7

Join the club

Membership Fee: P 300
Renewal Fee: P 230
Plus a proof of purchase from McDonald's.
Send us a money order or a check payable to Probe Productions, Inc. at P.O. Box 2123-1161
Central Post Office, Q.C.

Name ______________________
Address ____________________
Telephone No. ______________
Age______ Birthday___________
School_____________________
Signature __________________

We want to hear from you!
E-mail us at 5andup@csi.com.ph, or call us at 435-9742, look for Rin. Check out our website at 5andup.com.ph

Summer activities

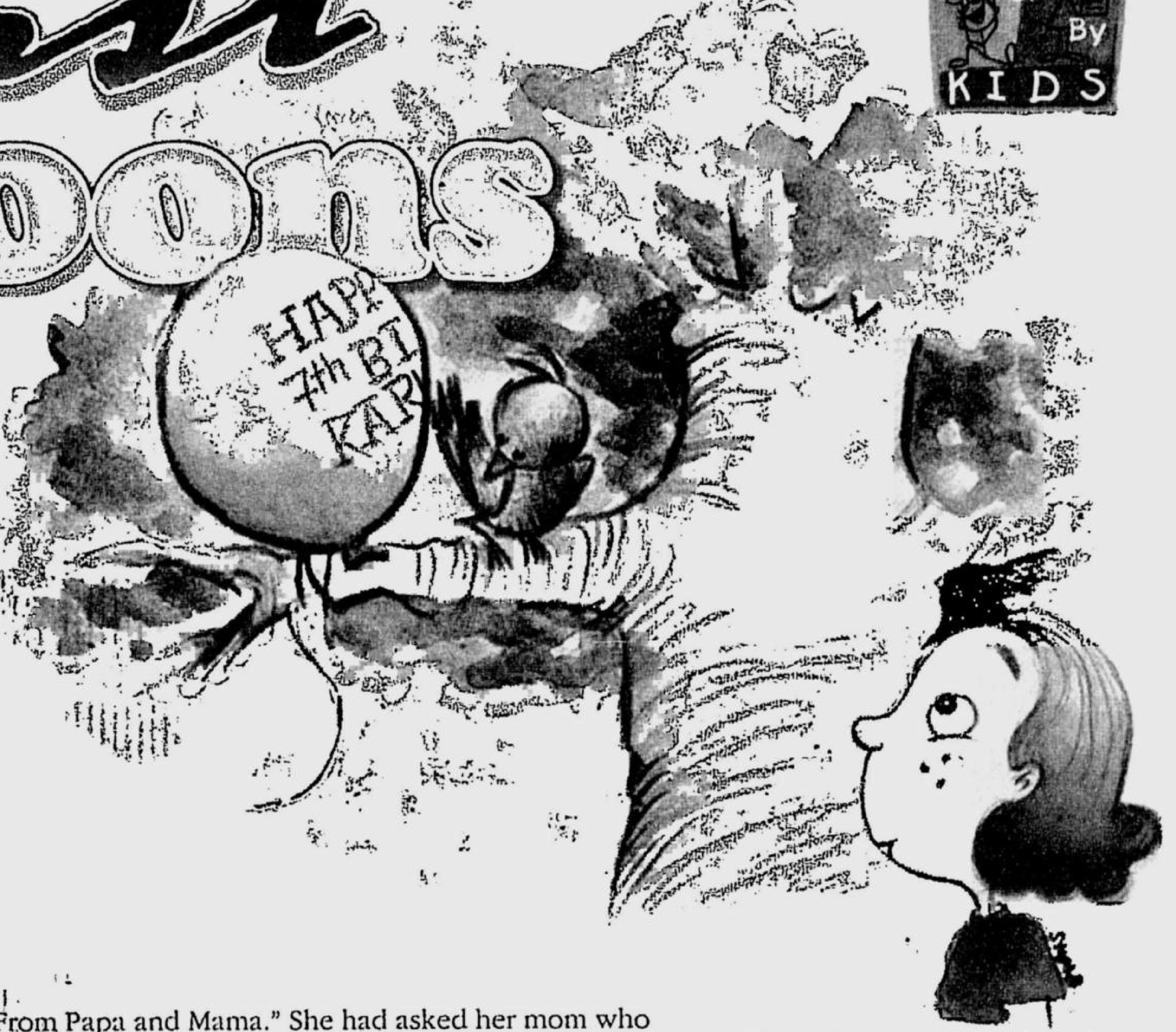
♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Be a part of our exciting and fun-filled activities this summer!

Join the 5 and Up Club sa McDo members as they learn how to survive in the outdoors, create innovative crafts, and test their stamina in sports and other activities.

Join the club's **Summer Camp** in Subic Bay Free Port from April 20-22. There are only limited slots available. Call 435-9742 now to register! Look for Rin.

Lost Balloons



Ayee loved balloons. But one day, she decided to give one away

By Annacris C. Llanera
Illustrations by Steph Bravo

LIKE the other children at the parade, Ayee was squinting at the bright morning sky where a hundred colorful balloons had just been released.

"Dad, why do balloons float?"

Her dad looked down at her beneath his dark sunglasses. "They have special air inside them that makes them float."

"But what happens to them when they run out of air?"

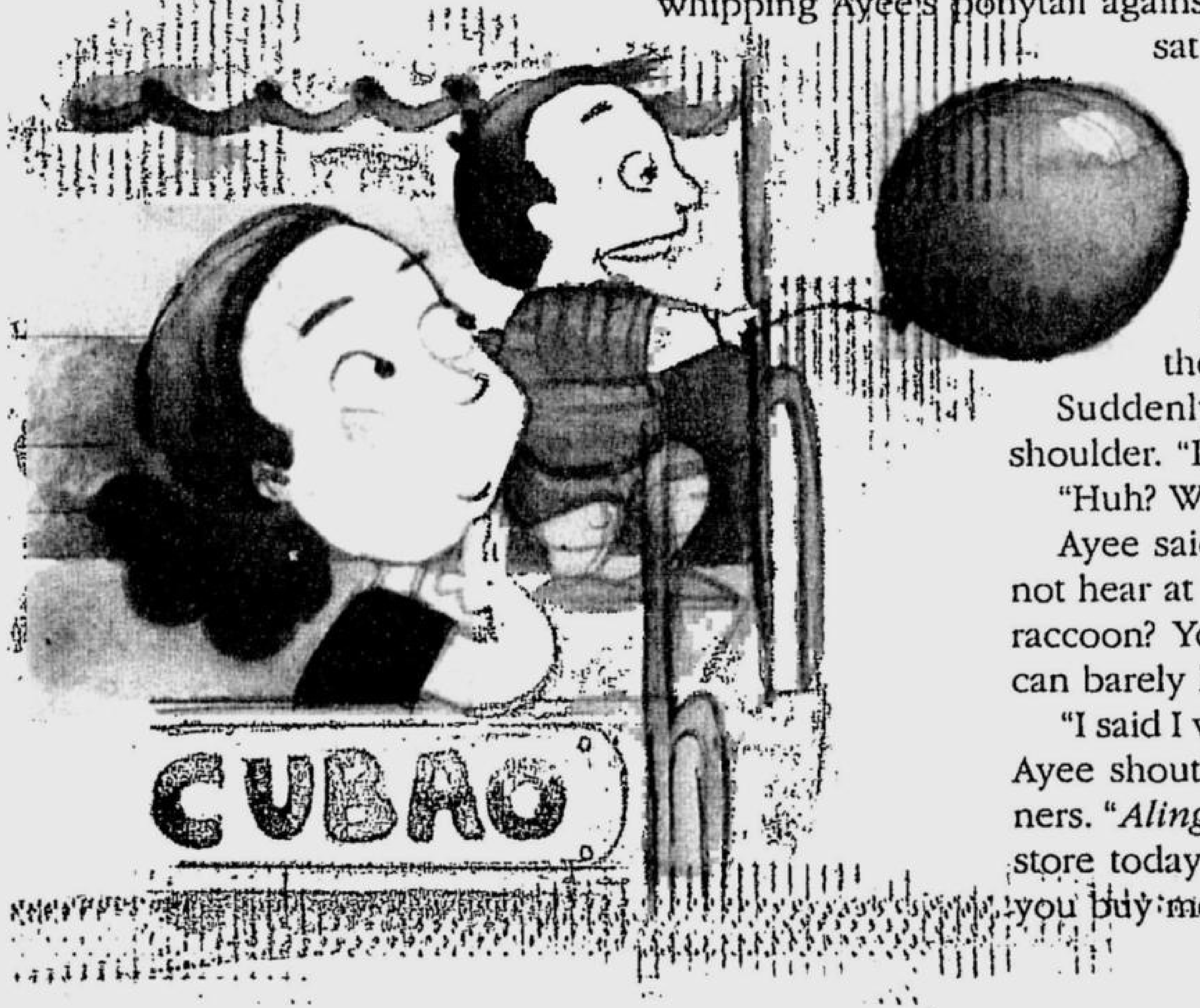
"Well, they become smaller and slowly fall to the ground."

Her dad paused. "Remember that deflated, green balloon you saw hanging from our mango tree last month? That was a lost balloon from a child's birthday party."

Ayee slowly nodded her head. She remembered the words on the balloon well. It read, "Happy 7th birthday, Karlo. From Papa and Mama." She had asked her mom who Karlo was and where he lived, but she told her that Karlo could be anywhere as far as the wind could reach.

"So the wind decides where to take the balloon."

Her dad grinned. "Yes, I guess you could say that." He looked at his watch. "We'd better go home now. Mommy is waiting."



SHORTLY, they were inside the speeding jeepney, the wind whipping Ayee's ponytail against her nape. In front of her sat a toddler with his mother.

The boy's wrist was tied with long string, which he tugged on every now and then. His eyes were transfixed outside the window, rhythm of the wind, and to the boy's occasional tugging.

Suddenly, Ayee tapped his dad's shoulder. "Dad? Dad!"

"Huh? What is it?"

Ayee said something, which he did not hear at first. "What did you say—a raccoon? You have to speak louder. I can barely hear above the motor."

"I said I want a BALLOON. . .please!" Ayee shouted, still aware of her manners. "*Aling* Cora is selling some in her store today because of the fiesta. Can you buy me one, please?

"Okay, okay. . .we're almost there. *Para*!"

When they got down the jeepney, Ayee dragged her dad to the nearest convenience store.

"Slow down," here dad protested as they entered the store. "You almost made me trip on the steps."

"Sorry, Dad."

AYEE immediately ran to the middle-aged, pleasant-faced woman manning the store. Behind her was a wide array of colorful, floating heads bobbing up and down excitedly.

"Balloons," Ayee breathed.

"Hello Cora," her dad greeted. "Ayee wants a balloon."

"You've been to the parade, I see," *Aling* Cora smiled, her eyes crinkling in a silent laugh. "Children always want a balloon after seeing hundreds of it floating in the sky. I must admit, as a child, seeing all those balloons swimming in the clouds has always been magical to me."

"*Aling* Cora, YOU were a kid once?"

Lost/p.8

BIG UBE TASTE! BIG UBE FUN!

New! Gardenia Ube Fun Bun

Everyday Fresh!
With Sweet Ube Filling
Gardenia
Ube Bun
Net Wt.

Now, there's a new fun bun flavor to delight your taste buds. Gardenia Ube Fun Bun. Filled with the goodness of real ube. Each bun baked and packed fresh from the oven. So yummy! So goody! So funFILLING! Only from Gardenia!

Gardenia Fun Buns

THE GOODY FUN WAY!

TRY THIS, TOO!
Chocolate Fun Bun

Available at supermarkets and convenience stores

Lost Balloons

(from page 6)

"Have you ever found any of your lost balloons?" *Aling* Cora shook her head. "Never. The only thing I could do was wish that they would land in a safe place, where someone else can take care of them"

"Of course, child!" *Aling* Cora's eyes were not laughing silently anymore. "I had small hands and feet like yours. Short arms too. But unlike you, I had short curly hair, only down to my chin. It was always tied up neatly with a ribbon." She looked in amusement at Ayee's tousled ponytail, strands of hair sticking out here and there.

"Did you like balloons?"

"I loved balloons." Her eyes looked far away, seeing something that was only visible to her. "I remember crying whenever I would lose one of them. I would never take my eyes off the sky until the balloon disappeared from the sky."

"Have you ever found any of your lost balloons?"

Aling Cora shook her head. "Never. The only thing I could do was wish that they would land in a safe place, where someone else can take care of them,"

"I found a lost balloon in our mango tree once."

"What did you do with it?"

"Well, I just played with it. Then Brownie snatched it away from me, and ripped it to pieces. I remember mommy being cross because she had to sweep the mess."

"Did you enjoy playing with it?"

"Oh yes," Ayee nodded vigorously. "I tossed it up in the air and of course, it didn't float anymore, so I caught it ...well, most times before it hit the ground. Brownie wanted to catch it too. It was fun."

"That's good," *Aling* Cora said. "I'm sure the child who lost the balloon wanted whomever found it to enjoy it. Balloons, like most things, don't last. We should enjoy things while they last."

Ayee's dad smiled. "That's a nice thought, Cora."

"Live in the moment, Ted. That's what I always say." She turned to Ayee. "Now, how about that balloon?"

AYEE chose a blue balloon with yellow stripes. "Mom has a blouse like it," she explained. After making the purchase, she and her dad went out the store.

Ayee skipped happily along the pavement, one hand enveloped by her dad's comforting grip, and the other clutching the pretty balloon. She couldn't take her eyes off the balloon, bobbing along with her every skip and tug. The sun was shining on her back, pleasantly warming her. It was a perfect moment.

Suddenly, she felt her dad shift his direction. She lowered her head from the balloon, and saw a small, dirty girl, about her age, her hand outstretched, clutching a brightly colored pad.

"Sweepstakes *po*," she softly said, her sad eyes like a lost puppy's.

"I'll take two," her dad said. Something rang in Ayee's head. But Dad, you don't play sweepstakes!

The scrawny vendor handed him the stubs and said, "Thank you *po*."

In an instant, Ayee's right hand was outstretched. "This is for you."

Her dad looked at her in surprise. The puppy-dog eyes widened like saucers.

"Come on, take it," Ayee insisted. "I'm giving it to you."

The child slowly took the string from Ayee's hand.

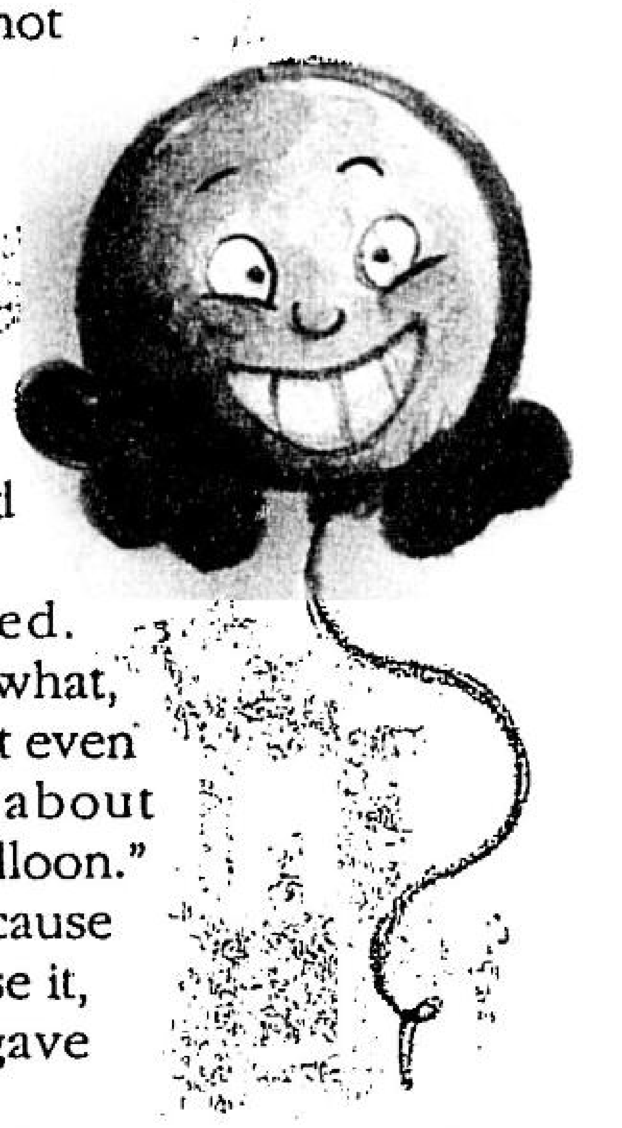
"Here, let me tie it on you wrist," Ayee's dad offered. He stooped and carefully knotted the string while the child looked on unbelievingly.

When he straightened himself up, the child ran toward her fellow vendors, showing them the balloon. They crowded around her, jumping to reach the bobbing head.

While walking, Ayee's dad turned to her. "Why did you do that?"

"I just wanted to make her smile." Ayee looked back at the giggling child. "See? She's not sad anymore."

Guiltily, she looked up at her dad. "I hope you're not angry."



Her dad was silent for a while, then spoke up, "No, I'm not angry. I am actually proud of you."

She smiled. "You know what, daddy? I don't even feel bad about losing the balloon."

"That's because you didn't lose it, Ayee. You gave it."

He grinned down at her and Ayee felt the warm sunshine inside her.

Annacris *is a freelance writer. She is a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University.*

Steph *is JI's staff artist. She has a cat named Sammy and a dog she calls Manny.*

Reviews by Kids

MOVIES

'. . .Instead, Pay it Forward'

BY BHEL CERTEZA

WE always do things for others. And as we do these so-called favors for other people, usually we expect the people we help to pay it back, right? But, have you encountered the term "Pay it forward"? Watch the movie "Pay it Forward," then I'll ask you again, okay?

In this movie, you will meet Trevor McKinney (played by the cute and adorable Haley Joel Osment, the kid who sees scary ghost in "The Sixth Sense"). He's the social studies student of Eugene Simonet (played by Kevin Spacey). During the first day of class for Trevor and the rest of his seventh-grade classmates, Mr. Simonet gave them a unique homework.

"What can you do to change the world?" Mr. Simonet asked them. And they were given the whole school year to respond to the question.

Each student on the Social Studies class came up with ideas, but Trevor's suggestion was exceptional. His idea was a game called "Pay it forward." In the game, every time somebody does a big favor for you, you' ll need to pay it forward to three other people instead of paying it back.

Watch how an 11-year-old kid inspires and touch people's hearts all across America. Well, honestly speaking, I cried a little bit while watching the movie. I don't normally do. The reason for this is that I was really touched by the fact that kids like us can inspire older people.

My favorite part was the scene where Trevor was explaining to his classmates his idea on how to change the world. And I also love how the movie shows the kind-hearted nature of every human being. That even though other people sometimes do bad things, they still posses goodness inside somehow.

The movie stars Haley Joel Osment, Kevin Spacey and Helen Hunt. The film was directed by Mimi Leder and based on the book by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

You can change the world!

CHECK out the website http://www.payitforwardfoundation.com/ and learn more about the Pay It Forward Foundation. It's a group that educates and inspires young students to realize that they can change the world, and provide them with opportunities to do so. The group is based in the United States and brings related educational materials into classrooms across America. Students and their teachers will be encouraged to formulate their own ideas of how they can pay it forward. **Maybe you can do something similar in your community**

TREVOR (Haley Joel Osment shown with co-stars Helen Hunt and Kevin Spacey) plays an 11-year-old with a brilliant idea.

FOR or By KIDS

Our Home, Our Family

BY JAMINA A. MUNASQUE
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

God reigns forever in a home,
That's why it's filled with so much happiness.
It may be decorated like a ship or dome,
But also with parents to greet you with hugs and kisses!

Inside a home lives a family,
A father, a mother, and a daughter.
The whole family feels very happy,
Whenever and wherever they are together.

Outside the home you will see;
Something special, big and wide,
It is also concrete, lovely and cozy,
And something grand and bright.

A home is something I'll not exchange for
A teddy bear or a trip to Rome.
You will have to admit once you open the door,
Mine is a peaceful and harmonious home.

Jamina *is a student at De la Salle Zobel.*
Albert *is one of the founding members of Illustrators' Group.*
He is a Fine Arts graduate from the University of the Philippines.

Me and my dyslexia

(from page 2)

told me so many times before. They didn't understand me before.

But when my mom read about dyslexia, she had me tested and we learned I was dyslexic. So, my mom enrolled me in a school called World Lab. WL is a co-ed and non-sectarian school specially put up for dyslexic kids. She let me stay there for two whole years. I loved it there! I met my very best friend there. The teachers were great, unlike in Poveda. And I had a lot of fun. But it was too expensive. So when I overcame my dyslexia, I went to Rosehill.

Well, this year was the worst year of my life because first, I always got sick. Then I had a lot of fights with my new classmates and, worst of all, my dad died. It was horrible. Plus, me and my mom fought a lot and sometimes I thought that no one ever loved me.

But on Jan. 22, on my 12th birthday, I received the nicest card in my whole life! My mom gave this to me. It had touching music. It said, "You are important to me. . .Because without you, I don't have dreams to dream. . ."

I know God created all people with disability and talent. You can fight that disability if you use your talent and try very hard to cope. Don't give up! Try your best and God will do the rest.

I know I am getting better every day.

¿ThinkathoN?

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

WHIZ KIDS 2001

HERE are selected brain-busters from the 1st Quarterly Finals of the "Digital LG Quiz" (Sundays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. on GMA 7) won by Chrysanthus "Bojit" Herrera of Philippine Science High School. Can you beat Bojit?

1. **Landmarks**
   What was the world's largest and most complex engineering project when it was completed in 1914 after 10 years of construction during which thousands of workers died of malaria and yellow fever?
2. **Art**
   What famous nude sketch by Leonardo da Vinci is sometimes subtitled "A Study of Human Proportions"?
3. **Chemistry**
   What element is mainly responsible for the "rotten egg" smell of bad breath?
4. **Information Technology**
   What computer device was first conceived by an American radar technician named Douglas Engelbart in 1968?
5. **History**
   What was the subject of the secret investigation conducted by the US Air Force from 1947 to 1969 under the code name "Project Blue Book"?
6. **Books**
   What celebrated ancient book on strategy was reputedly written by the Chinese general and philosopher Sun Tzu?
7. **Science**
   What was the name of the world's first practical railroad locomotive built by George Stephenson in Newcastle, England, in 1829?
8. **Entertainment**
   Name the lead star and director of the 1998 award-winning film "Life is Beautiful (*La vita e bella*)."
9. **Astronomy**
   To determine the diameters of large stars, astronomers use what special instrument that applies an interference pattern to calculate wave frequency, length, and velocity?
10. **Sports**
    Name the small but sensational tennis dynamo who was the first "Athlete of the Year" awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association in 1949.
11. **Math** (*30 seconds*)
    If the surface area of a cube is 150 sq. cm., what is its volume in cu. cm.?
12. **Quotations**
    What avant-garde American artist is the source of the popular line, "In the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes"?

Answers :

1. Panama Canal
2. "Vitruvian Man"
3. Sulfur
4. Mouse
5. UFOs
6. "The Art of War"
7. "Rocket"
8. Roberto Benigni
9. Interferometer
10. Felicisimo "Mighty Might" Ampon
11. 125
12. Andy Warhol

Ratings :

superbrain!
18 - 20

excellent!
14 - 17

good!
8 - 13

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

ECHO (ECHO) and REVERBERATIONNN

Sound, like light, can bounce off a smooth, hard surface. A sound you make that bounces back to you after a short delay is an ECHO.

Sometimes, though, the sound bounces back too quickly for you to notice. What you might experience is called REVERBERATION - when the sound you make seems longer. If you say "Hello", you might hear "Hellooooooo" instead.

How many words can you find from "REVERBERATION"? We found 36!

Helloooo!
Helloooo!

[illegible]

MARCH ATTACK!

The month of March gets its name from the Roman god Mars, god of war and, uh, springtime. The Greeks call him Aries, which is the zodiac sign of people born in March.

Find the names of 7 months, from January to July.

F	S	U	T	E	M	R	K	I	E	N	J
E	T	P	K	N	G	A	O	N	B	X	U
B	F	E	M	I	L	C	Y	W	D	L	N
R	O	T	R	A	J	M	O	B	J	A	E
U	S	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	D	Q	J
A	M	F	T	R	L	P	H	F	T	W	U
R	A	I	H	J	N	R	M	J	U	L	Y
Y	G	N	U	Y	O	I	E	R	O	F	R
B	E	T	R	A	B	L	A	P	R	I	S
M	A	S	F	M	A	R	C	H	Y	P	E

Yes, I am a 70 million year old fish.

[illegible] 70 million years ago. But in [illegible] Africa. Since then, it's been [illegible] living in the Indian [illegible] rough scales and arm- [illegible] average. Do you know what

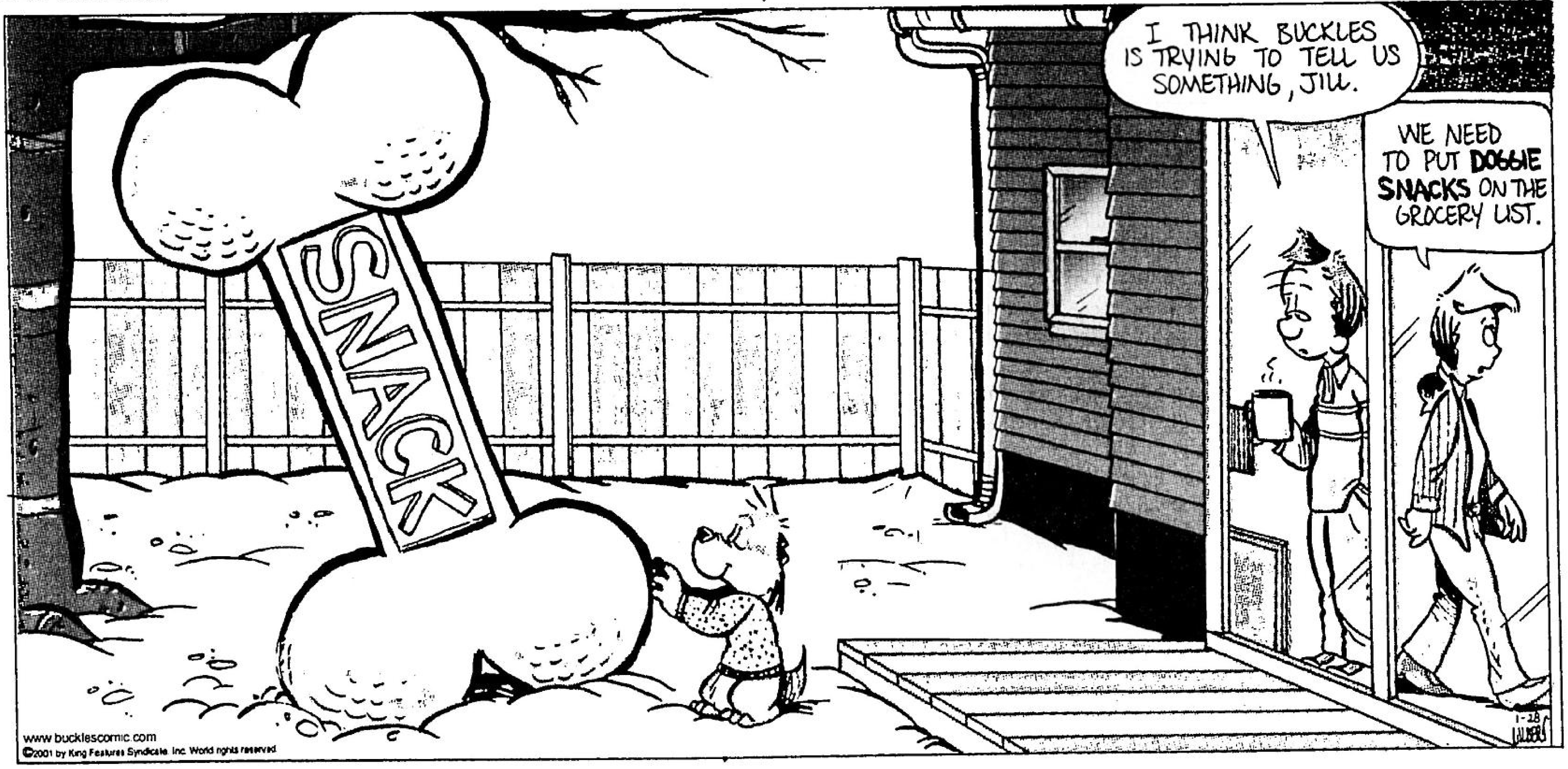
USE THE KEY TO BREAK THE CODE!

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3 15 5 12 1 3 1 14 20 8

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


I THINK BUCKLES IS TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING, JILL.
WE NEED TO PUT DOGGIE SNACKS ON THE GROCERY LIST.
SNACK
1-28

www.bucklescomic.com

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by Katrina B. Villa

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E	T	P	K	N	G	A	O	N	B	X	U
B	F	E	M	I	L	C	Y	W	D	L	N
R	O	T	R	A	J	M	O	B	J	A	E
U	S	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	D	Q	J
A	M	F	T	R	L	P	H	F	T	W	U
R	A	I	H	J	N	R	M	J	U	L	Y
Y	G	N	U	Y	O	I	E	R	O	F	R
B	E	T	R	A	B	L	A	P	R	I	S
M	A	S	F	M	A	R	C	H	Y	P	E

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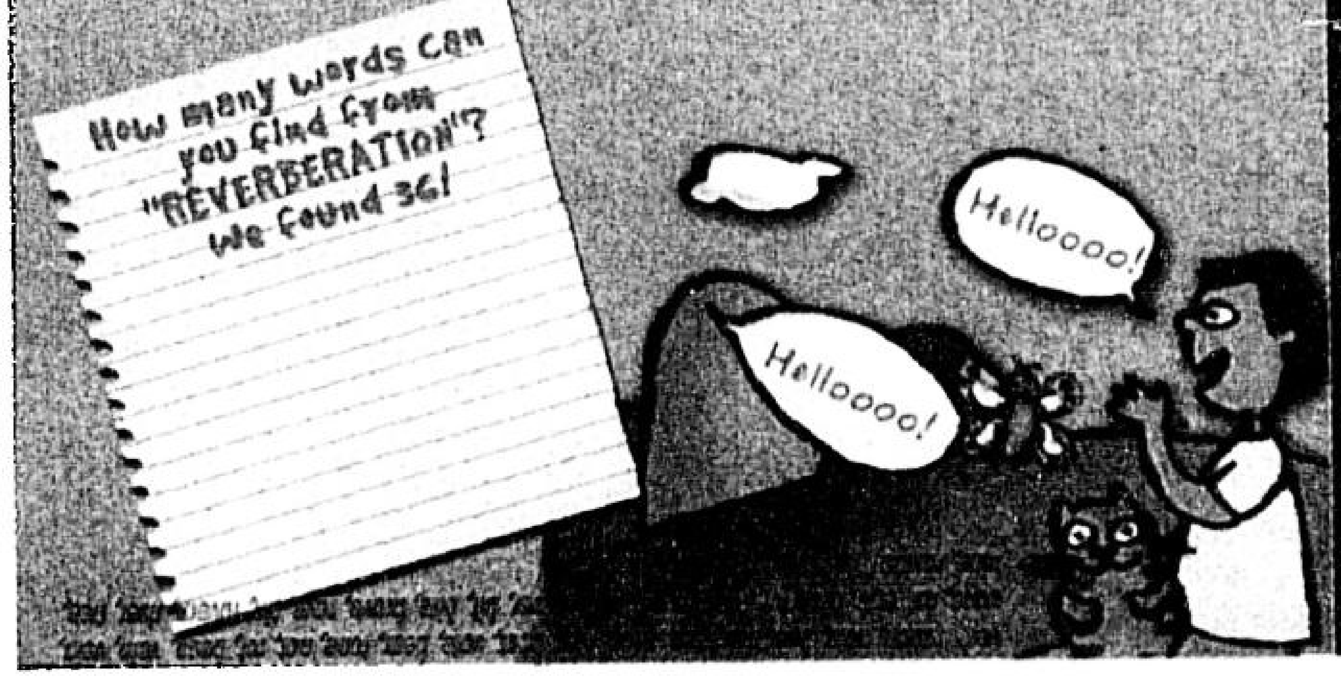
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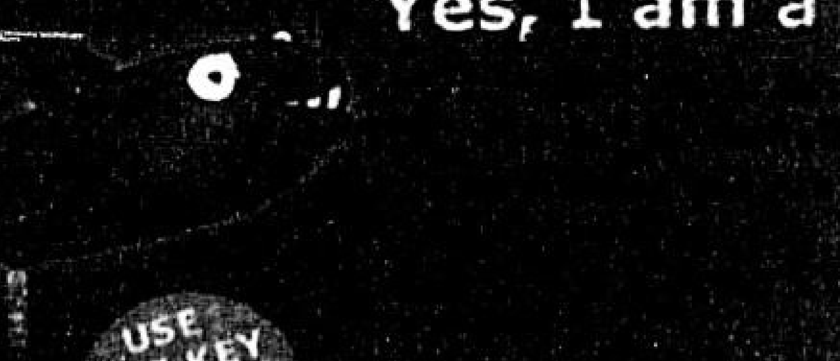
Helloooo!

Yes, I am a 70 million year old fish.



... disappeared 70 million years ago. But in ... caught in Africa. Since then, it's been ... some of them living in the Indian ... blue skin, rough scales and arm- ... long on average. Do you know what

USE THE KEY TO BREAK THE CODE!

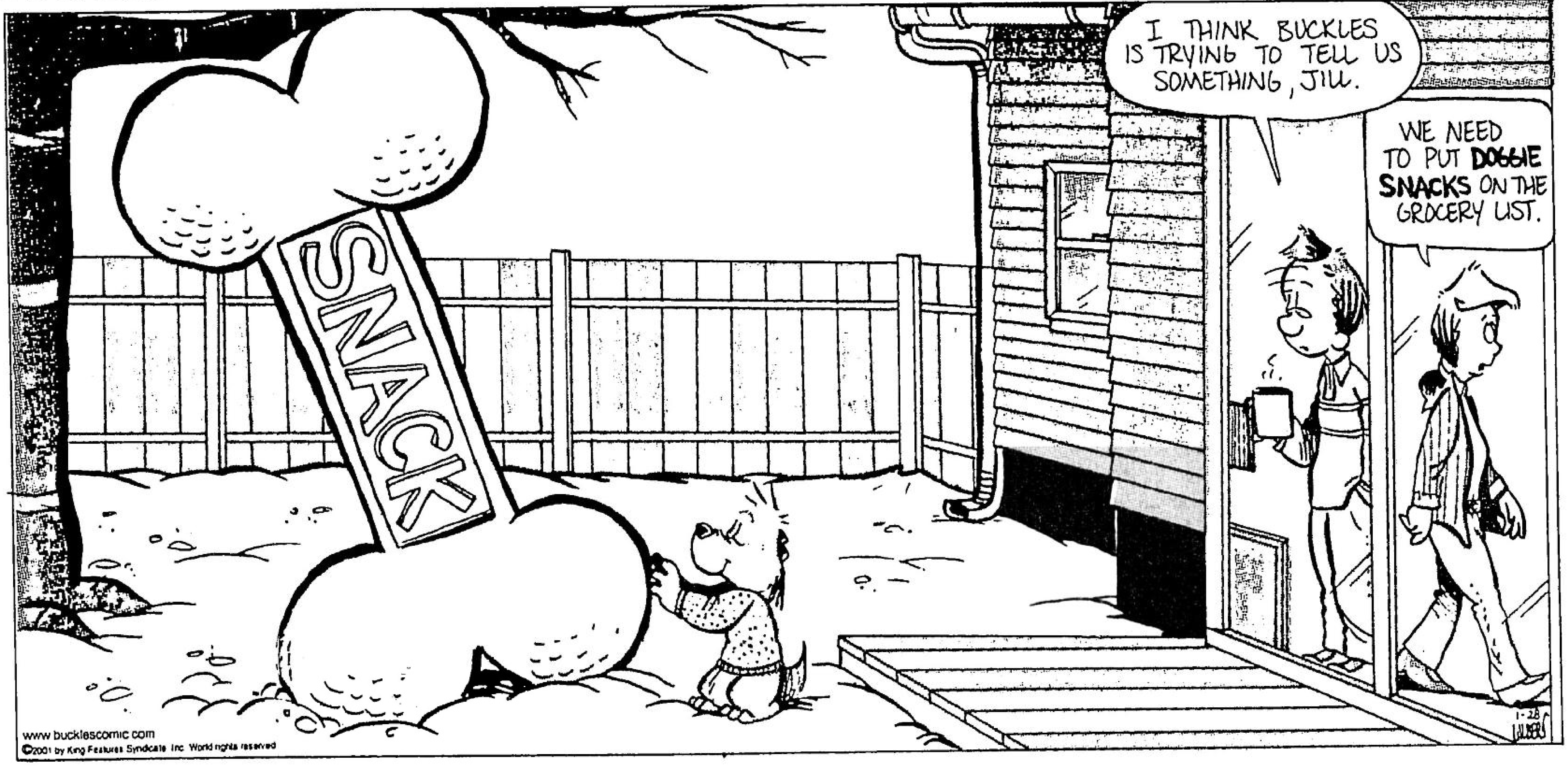
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3 15 5 12 1 3 1 14 20 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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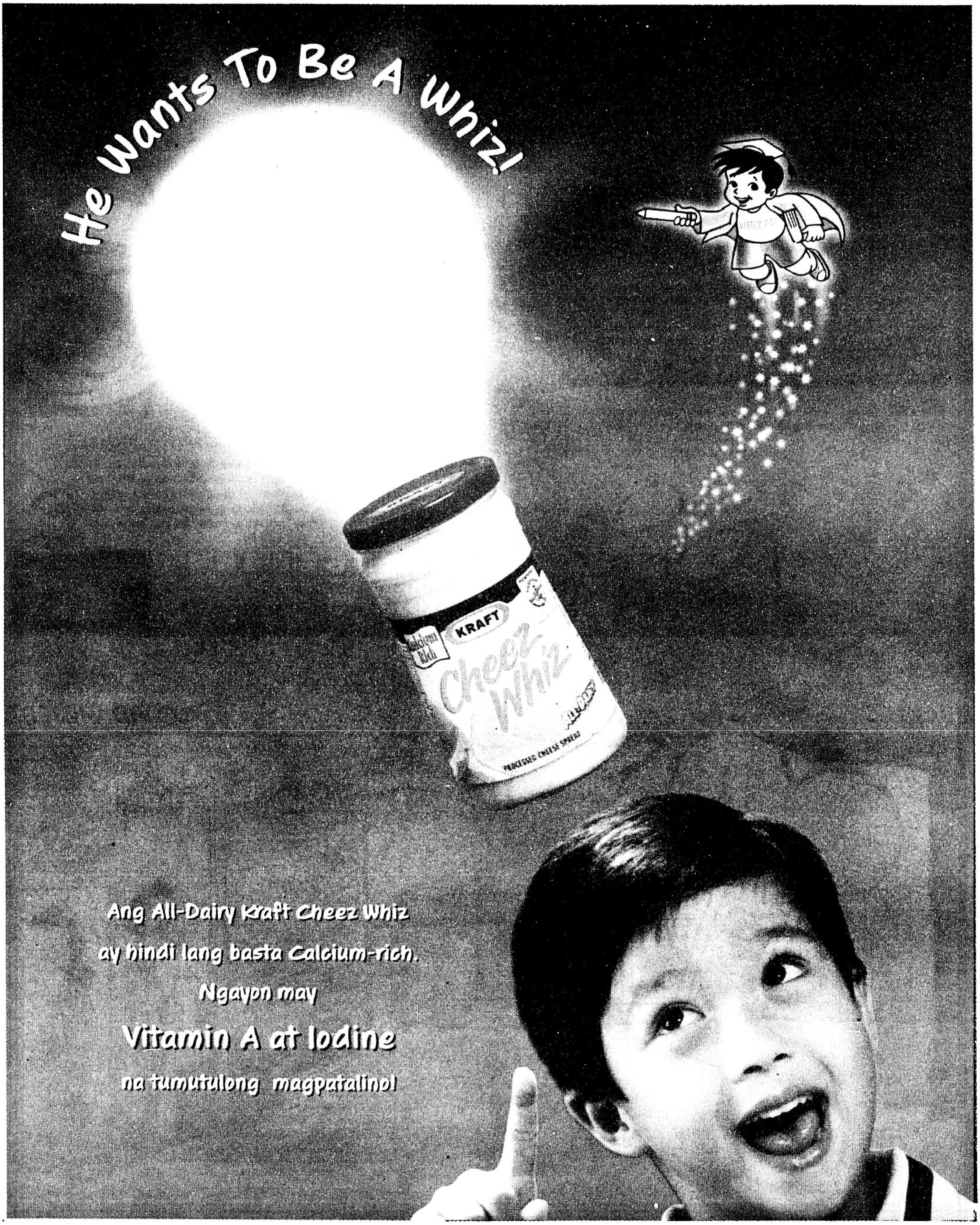
He Wants To Be A Whiz!
KRAFT
Cheez Whiz
PROCESSED CHEESE SPREAD

Ang All-Dairy Kraft Cheez Whiz
ay hindi lang basta Calcium-rich.
Ngayon may
Vitamin A at Iodine
na tumutulong magpatalino!